

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## POLL RESULTS

Are you aware of the Department of Public Safety's Designated Driver Program this holiday season?

Yes 46

No 43

Sunday, December 26, 2010

## INSIDE



### TV Show

The MVA draws another major Korea television network to the Northern Marianas for filming.

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### Bombed Mass

A bomb exploded during Christmas Day Mass at a chapel in the Philippines.

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### Hissy Fit

Jane Lynch says her "Glee" character throws "a hissy fit" when the show returns.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Fitia! says Kilili yet to invite him to inauguration. **PAGE 2**  
DPS offers safety guide for upcoming New Year. **PAGE 7**

## CUC enters its 28th month under 'state of emergency'

Without the authority provided by the continuing executive order, virtually none, if any, of those accomplishments would have been possible.

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitia!



### RELATED NEWS

CUC has 312 personnel; 83 more posts remains unfilled. **PAGE 6**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

For the 28th month since August 2008, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. remains under a state of emergency. Gov. Benigno R. Fitia! said this has provided CUC with the authority to hire foreign workers to address power, water and wastewater issues and comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's requirements.

See CUC on **Page 4**

### A CHRISTMAS TREAT

Four-year-old Mariano Vicente Aldan tries on the eagle merry-go-round at a mini-carnival at the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday afternoon. The carnival, owned by Olimp (USA) Inc., began operating on Christmas Day and is open to the public beginning at 5pm for at least the next six months.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## NMC faces \$1.8M shortfall for personnel and operation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College projects to incur a shortfall of \$1.8 million in its current budget for personnel and operation, based on the latest report on the financial status of the college.

See NMC on **Page 4**



Cabrera

## Army Reserve teens take part in Hawaii summit

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Thirteen teenagers from Saipan flew to Honolulu, Hawaii on Dec. 19 to join other young participants of the Youth Leadership, Education and Development Summit.

The Saipan delegation was composed of Taylor Ada, Rinel Chargualaf, Caitlin Char-

See ARMY on **Page 4**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youth Leadership, Education and Development Summit participants from Saipan pose for a group photo in front of the USS Missouri on Dec. 21.



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# Local



## LOTTERY WINNER

Laura Quitano, originally from Saipan and now a resident of Boise, Idaho, strikes it rich with a \$50,000 win in the Strike It Rich lottery. Her ticket was purchased at Airport Chevron in Boise.

STRIKE IT RICH

## Fitial says Kilili yet to invite him to inauguration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

When Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan takes his oath of office for the second time in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 5, Gov. Benigno R. Fitiaf is likely to be not there—again.

This time around, Sablan did not invite the governor.

Fitiaf, in an interview, said he will attend the inauguration if he's invited to it.

Sablan, when asked for comment, said Fitiaf did not attend his first swearing-in in January 2009 even though he was invited.

Fitiaf was in Washington, D.C. at the time of the 2009 inauguration and crossed path with Sablan but still did not

attend the milestone event for the CNMI.

Sablan said the 2009 swearing-in was a historic event as it marked the first time that the CNMI had a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

"He had his chance," Sablan said yesterday.

Sablan said in 2009, he was given 15 slots for his guests. For the 2011 swearing in, he's given only 10 slots. Half of them are

for his family members, while the other half is for other guests.

Fitiaf indicated that he will be in Washington, D.C. early next year, and plans to meet with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

The governor strongly campaigned for one of Sablan's three opponents in the November 2010 delegate election—Joseph Camacho of the Covenant Party. Fitiaf and Sablan have been at odds over a host of issues.

## Fund board holds meeting today to address last-minute matters in '10

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund will hold a special meeting today to address last-minute matters before the end of the calendar year. On top of its agenda are the board's decision on its pension software program that has been delayed for over two years and action on how the agency will address double-dippers.

During last week's regular board meeting, Fund trustees were notified about the continuous delay in the implementation of the new pension software due to some errors in the system. The project's fate, which has gone beyond the \$190,000 cost cited in a recent audit report and has been delayed since 2008, is expected to be decided by the trustees today.

According to a report of Fund internal auditor Esther Ada, the agency also received some requests for payment of double-dipping jobs, which she said remains a concern for the agency. She said some of these issues are in litigation.

Under existing law, except for classroom teachers, a government employee could only double-dip for two years. If they want to keep their government

job after this period, they have to give up their retirement benefits. The Constitution also requires a rest period of six months before a government employee who retired can go back to government service.

During last week's meeting, the board of trustees also questioned administrator Richard Villagomez on the Fund's financial status and raised concerns about the underpayment of contributions from some employers as well as the unpaid premium for one autonomous agency's employee and employer premium to Individual Assurance Company for life insurance coverage.

Villagomez told the board that the unpaid life insurance premium had been addressed due to payment made to the Fund, which will be paid to IAC immediately.

The board also discussed various proposed legislations, including one originating with the Legislature that seeks to allow members to retire after 15 years of service, regardless of the member's age. The board reiterated its intention to oppose any bill giving added benefits to defined benefit plan members until the amounts due the Fund

See FUND on Page 4

## Two new laws on Rota library and environment study on homesteads

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, when he was acting governor on Dec. 17, signed into law two bills: one that retains the name of the Rota Public Library and one that requires an environmental impact assessment prior to conducting a lottery of homestead lots.

Inos signed Rep. Teresita Santos' (Ind-Rota) House Bill 17-107 into Public Law 17-25, or the Rota Public Library Amendment Act of 2010.

Santos' bill maintains the name of the Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Library in honor of the late mayor, regardless of its location.

The acting governor at the time also signed HB 17-76 into Public Law 17-26, requiring the Department of Public Lands to conduct and complete an envi-

ronmental impact assessment prior to having qualified homesteaders participate in the lottery of available homestead lots.

Santos said homesteaders who won in the lottery of homestead lots could not enter, use and improve their homestead lots months or years after awarded the lots because of DPL's failure to conduct an environmental impact study.

She said this is "extremely disturbing" and that homesteaders "have given high hopes of receiving their homestead lot by having them participate in a lottery process only to diminish their dreams of owning and building a safe, decent and sanitary dwelling for themselves and their families." (Haidee V. Eugenio)

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# DPL wary about RFP bill's negative impact on current land leases

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta has said that a proposal to require the Department of Public Lands to publish a request for proposal to lease public land at least a year before the expiration or after termination of an existing lease "might actually reduce investment in our current leases," among other things.

"For example, there is less

incentive to invest money in the CNMI's public lands if there is only the availability of a 25-year lease with a one-time 15-year extension," Babauta said in a letter to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) last week.

Manglona, author of Senate Bill 17-50, said in an interview that he welcomes the DPL secretary's concerns about the proposal, to make it a better bill.

The Senate may hold a session this week, and SB 17-50 will likely be acted on.

The DPL secretary suggested that the Legislature could include in the bill an assurance "that there are no impediments to entering into new leases [as was done with Lao Lao Bay]."

"As a I stated earlier, I believe this bill is well-intentioned and has outstanding qualities. I have listed my reservations and concerns for your consideration," he told Manglona.

Babauta, a former House speaker, said the bill lacks specificity regarding the end of a

lease. DPL has many legislative approved leases with extension clauses in them.

Any lease of public land consisting of more than 5 hectares requires legislative approval.

"These extensions must be approved by the Legislature, but the department is not free to violate the lease before the



Babauta

Legislature acts on the extension request," Babauta said, as he suggested that the term "expire" be defined to include the 15-year extension of any lease.

Babauta also raised concerns about the requirement of an RFP. An RFP or a request for proposal is a specific instrument used in procurement and has

regulations associated with it.

"I suggest that instead of calling it an RFP, call it an 'Opportunity to Lease Public Land' and maintain the same or similar conditions. Keeping in mind, however, that more conditions placed on the advertisement, generally, will mean fewer proposals from the advertisement," he said.

Manglona introduced on Nov. 19 SB 17-50, saying that, by requiring DPL to publish an RFP at least a year before the expiration of an existing lease requiring legislative approval, DPL will be able to obtain the best offer available for such

properties.

For public land leases that have less than a year left, DPL should publish an RFP within 30 days of the effective date of the bill becoming law, under Manglona's bill.

One of the current leases set to expire next year is the Coral Ocean Point, which Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said should not be extended, mainly because the investor "has not lived up to its commitment."

Fitial was referring to \$4 million in "public contributions" that the Japanese owner of Coral Ocean Point—Suwaso Corp. Inc.—was supposed to provide the CNMI community when it first proposed to extend its lease.

DPL is tasked with managing leases of public lands on behalf of people of Northern Marianas descent.

## Defendant in driver's license scam ordered detained

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has issued an order to detain Mohammad Jahangir Amiah, the auto shop owner who was earlier arrested for alleged involvement in a driver's license scam at the Public Safety Department.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen ruled Tuesday last week that Amiah should be kept detained because he poses a risk to the public due to his criminal history.

The order stated that, although Amiah has no history of violence, he has perpetrated many fraudulent crimes that have injured members of the public.

"Defendant's criminal his-

tory convinces the court based on clear and convincing evidence that, if released, defendant would continue to commit crimes that would harm the public," the order stated. However, the judge deemed Amiah not a flight risk.

The visiting judge stated that the order is entered to memorialize and supplement the oral rulings of the Court and the detention order filed on Dec. 17, 2010.

Miah was denied bail and placed under the custody of U.S. Marshal during an earlier hearing.

The court order also stated that the events underlying the current complaint took place while Miah was on supervision for another crime.

Miah was arrested on charges of unlawful transfer of identi-

cation document on the afternoon of Dec. 12, 2010.

Saipan Tribune learned that police also arrested Miah in July 2010 for allegedly stealing vehicles and falsifying their certificates of ownership. On Aug. 9, 2010, police arrested Miah and his wife on charges they stole a vehicle and falsified its certificate of ownership.

In late August 2010, the Superior Court dismissed the charges against the Miah couple in one case.

Police arrested Miah again in September 2010 on the same charges.

In 2006, the Superior Court sentenced Miah to three years in prison for forging CNMI Labor and Immigration documents to collect money from an alien worker.

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# Bordallo laments removal of Guam war claims from US defense bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo lamented the removal of the Guam war claims provision from this fiscal year's defense budget bill but expressed optimism that the incoming Congress will be able to take up the measure again and pass it.

Bordallo said the Senate eliminated the payments because some senators objected to the cost. She said elimination of the money could adversely affect U.S. plans for a military buildup on the island.

She said, though, that she has already received a commitment from Rep. Buck McKeon, the incoming chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, to ensure that the compromise version of Guam war claims will be attached to next year's defense authorization bill.

"I appreciate the strong bipartisan support that war claims has received in the House of Representatives from people like incoming Chairman McKeon. I am hopeful that under normal legis-

lative procedure in the Senate, we can finally overcome these obstacles in the Senate and bring closure to this matter. ...I will work with the Senate to address some of their remaining concerns about how such a claims program would be funded and identify an offset," she said.

Title 17, the compromise version of the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act in H.R. 6523, was stripped from the Senate version of the "Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011," mainly due to the cost of the provision, which would have been authorized at \$100 million, and the source of an offset to find funding for the measure.

H.R. 6523 originally passed the House by a vote of 341 yeas to 48 noes on Friday, Dec. 17, 2010. However, late Wednesday night, the leadership in the U.S. Senate amended the bill to remove Title 17. The Senate passed the bill the

following day through unanimous consent. Given the limited time remaining in the 111th Congress, the House accepted the Senate amendment to H.R. 6523 over Bordallo's objections.

A unanimous consent request requires that all senators agree to any legislation. As such, several conservative senators continued to hold up H.R. 6523 over the Guam war claims provision in Title 17.

Despite the last minute negotiations to address the objections to the bill, several senators' concerns remained and their continued opposition required Senate leadership to amend the bill and remove Title 17.

"I am deeply disappointed that a small minority of senators held up the entire defense authorization act due to their objections over Guam War Claims," said Bordallo. "I compromised with Senator McCain and agreed to accept the same compromise language that was offered during de-



Bordallo

## ARMY

From Page 1

gualaf, Anthony David, Elijah Elias, Justice Farley, Justine Farley, Ty Guerrero, Alecsander Lopez, Brandon Philip, Yvonne Philip, Heidi Sablan, and Franzine Togawa. All come from different schools on Saipan.

They joined four young students from Guam, 30 from American Samoa, and three from Oahu who took part in the five-day summit.

Organized by the Army Reserve's Child Youth and School Services, the YLEAD Summit aims to empower Army Reserve-associated youth with essential skills to grow and develop as young adults.

Summit curriculum includes training on development of life goals, leadership skills, social skills, and self-esteem.

Tara Dixon, CYSS outreach coordinator, said the summit is usually held at least once a year and the CNMI has participated in the last three years.

Dixon said interested Reserve-associated students register in the CYSS website and participants for the summit are chosen on a first-

come, first served basis.

The outreach coordinator said the summit plays a vital role in addressing the unique challenges that Army Reserve teens face when their family members go on deployment.

"The YLEAD is important because it brings Army Reserve teens together. The kids are able to connect with each other and learn they have someone they can relate to so they don't feel like they're alone," she explained.

Dixon told *Saipan Tribune* that although YLEAD follows a basic curriculum that helps prepare teens for the future and become role models, they adjust the summit based on the teens' needs.

According to Dixon, this was the first YLEAD wherein they incorporated a substance abuse class because of the challenges presented by substance abuse as well as peer pressure.

"Between that [substance abuse class] and a variety of classes such as communication, family relationships and decision making, we hope that our teens leave the camp with the tools needed to make better decisions," she said.

Other activities included were the Service Learning Project at the Tripler

Medical Center Army Fisher Houses, educational tours on the USS *Arizona* and the USS *Missouri* Center, and teambuilding activities such as kayaking, surfing and other fitness challenges at the Pililaau Army Recreation Center.

Rinel Chargualaf, a ninth grader at Grace Christian Academy, said the summit has taught her that a good leader must have loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

"It's a good experience for those military kids that need help. There are people out there to help you if you have any problems or need someone to talk to for anything," she added.

Taylor Ada said her father's deployment has been challenging for her and her family. "It's difficult, but it makes the family stronger, like a stronger bond. When my father's home it makes me appreciate things more," she said.

Ada, a senior at Mount Carmel School, said her experience at the summit has made her realize to take more responsibility in the things she does and take things more seriously.

"I think I am going to interact more within my community and people in need," she added.

## NMC

From Page 1

The report, discussed during Friday's Board of Regents meeting, showed that the expected deficit is due to the central government's failure to fund NMC's vocational education program this fiscal year. The government usually gives the college over \$900,000 for this program; the amount pays for the salary of a significant number of personnel. That funding was scrapped this year.

NMC has two funding sources for its yearly budget: the appropriation from the central government, which pays for the salaries of employees, and the tuition and fees generated from students, used for NMC's operations.

NMC was appropriated only \$4.4 million in fiscal year 2011, an amount much lower than last fiscal year's budget of \$5.2 million.

In the interim president's report to the board, NMC has to transfer some

full-time employees' position under the vocational education program to the college's general fund so as not to stop instructional services for students.

These instructors cover the following programs: School of Education, Nursing, and Business departments.

Besides the \$900,000 shortfall in personnel cost, it was reported to the board that close to a million dollar deficit is projected for operation and utilities of the college.

However, NMC officials said the shortfall is based on working analysis and may always change based on actual data.

Interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera assured Friday that the management is closely working with the finance and budget office to address the concern. She said one way to alleviate the shortfall is to reprogram some federal funding to pay for the college's utilities, for instance.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that under the tuition and fees account, NMC

has so far spent and obligated about \$900,000. It has a remaining \$500,000 for the first quarter.

Because allotments from the government have been delayed, tuition and fees are being used to pay for some obligations. Cabrera admitted that, if this situation continues, this will negatively impact the college's operation as the tuition and fees account may be exhausted.

The Board of Regents has asked the college's management to carefully plan and control its finances, encouraging Cabrera to take "creative approaches" to sustain operations.

As much as the college wants to tap or reprogram some portions of its state fiscal stabilization fund, Cabrera said this is limited and would end in September 2011.

"SFSF is very limited and that's going to end in September. We don't want to risk our faculty...and there's a possibility of losing FTEs after the SFSF...." she told the board.

bate on last year's defense authorization bill.

"Accepting the compromise was the only way to ensure that Senator McCain would support inclusion of war claims in the updated defense bill this year. I trusted that gaining Senator McCain's acceptance on the compromise would ensure Republican support for the measure.

"However, a group of fiscally conservative senators continued to object to provision over the issue of cost and potential offsets. I did not accept the compromise last year because I felt I owed it to the people of Guam, most especially our man'amko, one more chance for the full text of H.R. 44.

"I appreciate the support of President Obama and White House staff who actively supported the war claims provision. We also have letters of support

from the Department of Interior, the Department of Defense and numerous Democratic leaders in the U.S. Senate.

"Their letters of support clearly demonstrate this Administration's recognition of the importance of resolving war claims so that the military buildup can move forward. However, because Senate Republicans continued to object to moving the defense authorization bill under normal order in the Senate, over objections to repeal of the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy, our provision did not benefit from the normal legislative process.

"Given the political situation in the Senate in the closing days of this Congress, the only way to pass the critical defense authorization bill was to do it by unanimous consent and that procedure gives tremendous power to each individual senator to object. (PR)

## CUC

From Page 1

Fitial cited as an example the U.S. District Court's review of CUC's compliance with stipulated orders during a Dec. 9 hearing, "observing that CUC had met 35 of 36 milestones, including the timely filing of its [interim financial plan]—a highly positive performance."

This is a key issue in the governor's latest extension of the CUC emergency declaration dated Dec. 19, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* on Christmas Day.

"Without the authority provided by the continuing executive order, virtually none, if any, of those accomplishments would have been possible, due to the lack of in-house technical expertise and the inability of management to order and supervise the compliance activities," Fitial said in his latest executive order.

Fitial first placed CUC under a state of emergency on Aug. 1, 2008, back when Saipan was reeling from rolling blackouts.

So long as the executive order and emergency declaration are in effect, CUC is also able to tap foreign skilled workers and experts as the local/U.S. citizen pool is limited.

The governor's executive order suspends the legislative prohibition on CUC's hiring of foreign workers.

He reiterated that there is no indication that any of the manpower situation will be resolved in the next month without continuing in effect his executive order and directive No. 10.

CUC's procurement regulations and the CNMI procurement regulations applicable to CUC also remain suspended as a result of the executive order.

Fitial also said CUC was able to beat the Nov. 30 deadline to submit a final interim financial plan to EPA.

"EPA has yet to approve it," the governor added.

The CUC interim financial plan is one of the requirements in the stipu-

lated orders representing the agreement between the CNMI and EPA for CUC to comply with the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

## \$15 million financing

CUC is securing a \$15 million long-term financing, which would pay for necessary equipment and construction, including measures required by the U.S. District Court and EPA in the federal stipulated orders.

Fitial said CUC has approached the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine whether CUC can borrow approximately \$15 million at highly attractive rates.

He said this funding will be necessary to provide CUC with the additional equipment and other installations necessary to provide its services.

"Without an adequate staff of technical professionals and without an executive director with the power to run the company, the USDA will not provide such funding," the governor added.

CUC filed a petition with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on Nov. 10 for an electric side rate increase which, if granted, would support its plan to secure \$15 million in long-term financing.

CUC still has a lot of vacant positions for technical functions that have yet to be filled.

These include three experienced Level 3 wastewater treatment operators, two Level 3 wastewater collections operators, an instrumentation/low voltage controls specialist, an experiences water/wastewater division operations manager, a chemist, a deputy director for water and wastewater.

Fitial said CUC having access to foreign skilled and semi-skilled technicians and trades people is critical, as with CUC Power Division's generation operations.

"CUC's foreign contract employees have good formal training and education, and they show up to work religiously in order to provide the services our population requires," the governor said.

## FUND

From Page 2

have been paid.

The trustees applauded the Fund management's efforts in communicating clearly with the Legislature regarding the bills opposed by the Fund because of the continued financial drain

on the Fund's assets, while advocating for passage of various bills that will address many problematic areas facing the agency. One such bill will change the employer contribution from a percentage based on payroll of the defined benefit plan members to a line item appropriation for each department and agency, to be incorporated for the fiscal year 2012 budget.



## Public library OK'd for \$200K to install solar panels on roof

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved the grant application of the CNMI Library Council for the repair and renovation of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The council applied for the Special Project grant funded by Public Law 111-117 or the Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2010.

HUD will award the council \$200,000.

Executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales said they received last week the letter from Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic

Development Robert Duncan informing them about the grant approval.

Gonzales disclosed that the funding will be used to help the public library become energy efficient through the use of solar panel roofing.

"With the approval of the grant, we have all the reasons to celebrate because we've worked hard for it," Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gonzales said they will start accepting proposals for the repair and renovation project by next year.

According to Gonzales, the Library Council used to work only with the Capital Improvements Project Office through

administrator Vicky Villagomez in terms of getting funding for the library.

Since Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's election to office, Gonzales said the island's public library now directs its requests to Sablan's office and look for grant opportunities online.

The CNMI's state library also has a pending \$1.5 million appropriations request with Congress.

Of this amount, \$250,000 will be used for the repair and renovation of the Tinian Public Library while the rest of the funding will be used to modernize the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and bring up to date its cultural and heritage collections.

"We want to improve our library collections to make it more responsive to the information and resources needs of the people," he said.

## Arts exhibit falls victim to money woes, staff shortage

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture expressed regret for not hosting a Christmas exhibit this month.

"The Arts Council extends its apology to the local artists and the community for not having an exhibit because of financial circumstances," said executive director Angel S. Hocog.

The Christmas exhibit every December is one of the three major exhibits sponsored by the Arts Council. The other two are the Women's Exhibit in March

and the Pacific Arts and Cultural Exhibit in September.

The exhibits aim to help local artists display and promote their artworks and find suitable markets for their products.

The Arts Council does not charge the local artists any fees and all proceeds from the sale of items go to the artists themselves.

Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* that this year's exhibit was supposed to be held on Dec. 15 at the Saipan World Resort since previous years' exhibits generated low turnouts because they display the local artworks at the Capital Hill gallery.

According to Hocog, the Arts Council did not have enough staff to make arrangements for the planned exhibit.

Press secretary Angel Demapan also confirmed that the Arts Council's inability to host the exhibit was due to financial constraints.

"Unfortunately, due to the government's fiscal challenges, the Arts Council was unable to conduct a Christmas exhibit in time for the holidays," he said through email.

Still, Hocog expressed hope that the Arts Council will be able to arrange for another exhibit after the holidays.

## December is C.N.M.I. AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

CHECK WHAT YOU CAN DO TO DEAL WITH HIV:

KEEP THE  
PROMISE  
NOW!



WORLD  
AIDS  
CAMPAIGN



- ✓ Get tested for HIV.
- ✓ Learn about your risks for getting HIV.
- ✓ Decide not to do the things that put you at risk.
- ✓ Practice safer methods to prevent HIV.
- ✓ Talk with family, friends, and colleagues about HIV prevention.
- ✓ Support people living with HIV.
- ✓ Volunteer at a local group that serves people living with HIV.
- ✓ Ask our leaders to increase their awareness and response to HIV.



For more Information, Testing and Confidential Services,  
Contact the HIV/STD Resource & Treatment Center at 664-4050  
[www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm](http://www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm) [www.worldaidscampaign.org](http://www.worldaidscampaign.org) [www.aids.gov/world-aids-day/](http://www.aids.gov/world-aids-day/)  
Paid for with funds from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Mochitsuki is the traditional mochi (rice cake) pounding ceremony. Kids and adults alike are invited to join in pounding the mochi with the heavy kine (wooden mallet). Let's join pounding mochi! and try freshly made Mochi!!



Food Stand:  
Mochi, Tonjiru, Azuki and more!!!  
Culture Stand:  
Origami, Stilt, Hanetsuki, Kendama,  
Begoma, Syodou

Game Stand:  
Shooting,  
Water Balloon Scooping,  
Ring Toss,  
and more!

FUKUBIKI  
(Japanese Raffle Game)  
Grand Prize: 100,000 Yen  
And Many More Prizes to give away!  
like Restaurant Certificate,  
Japanese Toys, Souvenirs, etc...

5:30pm - 6:00pm Mochitsuki Performance  
6:00pm - 6:30pm PDM (Awaodori)  
6:30pm - 7:00pm Mochitsuki Performance  
7:00pm - 7:30pm PDM (Japanese Culture Demo.)  
7:30pm - 8:00pm Mochitsuki Performance  
8:00pm - 8:30pm PDM (Japanese Culture Demo.)



年忘れ餅つき祭

December 27, 2010 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Japanese "Culture" Festa  
in Paseo de Marianas

Sponsored by:

Kinpachi Restaurant,  
Furusato Restaurant,  
PDM Promoters, Inc. (A CNMI Non Profit Corporation)  
Japanese Society of Northern Marianas



## Seasons Greetings



We'd like to extend our warmest holiday greetings and wish everyone good health, happiness and peace. The gift of sight is a very precious one; treasure it always.

**HARDT**  
EYE CLINIC

We're here to help and to answer any questions you may have, whether simple or complicated.

**235-2030**





## BASED ON INTERIM FINANCIAL PLAN

# CUC has 312 personnel; 83 more posts remain unfilled

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has a total of 312 personnel at present but 83 more posts remain unfilled, according to the interim financial plan the agency submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in response to federal stipulated orders.

Of the 312 current personnel, 57 are with power distribution; 87 are with power generation; 64, water division; 23, wastewater division; and 81, administration.

CUC's reorganization plan

requires it to have a total of 395 positions, which means that 83 more people need to be hired for various positions to complete its roster.

These vacant seats include 10 at power distribution; two for power generation; 16 for the water division; 15 for wastewater; and 40 for the administrative division.

According to CUC, these manpower needs are based upon an organizational philosophy of specific employee functions/duties and accountability for facilities in the system and the equipment within

those facilities.

## Operations budget

CUC estimates it will spend \$113.7 million for operations—power, water, and wastewater divisions—this fiscal year. This projection is higher than what was actually spent—\$95.8 million for operation—in fiscal year 2010.

Among the projected expenses in fiscal year 2011 included \$93.8 million for power; \$11.6 million for water; and \$8.2 million for wastewater.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the power division projects to incur

total operating expenses of \$86.9 million this fiscal year, which include items such as production of fuel, salaries and wages, professional fees, rentals, and others.

For the water division, CUC expects to spend \$10 million in total operating expenditures, while the sewer division expects to incur \$6.5 million in operating expenses. It expects to spend \$6.7 million for administration.

A significant amount of the \$113.7 million operations budget will go toward debt servicing and capital outlays, which refer to the rehabilitation and construction of various facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Also included in the capital outlay is the procurement of equipment and other machinery that are also in dire need of repair or replacement.

## Lawmaker wants the Aging Center exempted from austerity measures

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A lawmaker has expressed disappointment over the non-exemption of the Office on Aging from the austerity measures in effect among government agencies under the Executive Branch this fiscal year 2011.

"Ninety percent of their budget is federally funded. Even their personnel are mostly covered by federal funds. The Office on Aging, therefore, shouldn't be affected by austerity," said Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan).

The 16-hour work cut per pay period and the 13 unpaid holidays required by law have required the Office on Aging to close every other Friday.

Palacios said that with the implementation of austerity Fridays, services for both congregates and homebound clients have now been affected.

"A lot of our elders do not have anyone to cook or care for them that's why they go to the center to relax, meet friends, and

have fun. With the center closed because of austerity, where will they go? Who will feed them?" asked Palacios.

He also expressed concern that the austerity measures will impact the funding they get from the federal government.

"If we don't use it, we lose it. This will affect future grants," he said.

Palacios believes that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao are aware of this austerity issue. "I hope they will look into this concern," he added.

Palacios said Office on Aging director Rose Mondala also asked all lawmakers' assistance in getting funding to address problems at the Aging Center.

He said Mondala informed them that the convectional ovens at the Aging Center's kitchen as well as their automatic door are no longer functioning.

"They let us know what is needed at the Aging Center so we'll see what we can do to help them," said Palacios.

## 3 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Jeffries Beach, Old Man by the Beach, and Ladder Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations

of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast last Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (*DEQ*)



## 'NINO' IN ARIZONA

Whether near or far, the baby Jesus, or "niño," stays in the heart of this group of Refaluwasch living in Arizona. The Christmas holiday season is better celebrated, starting with a novena in the home, followed by taking "the niño" to visit each families' home from Saipan, all while singing Refaluwasch and Chamorro Christmas songs. The families in the photo are members of the Seman, Saures, Cabrera, and the Rabauliman families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-006

Opening Date: December 23, 2010  
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

### Accounting Technician

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May help supervise or supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.

**SALARY:** \$15,139 to \$16,155 per annum.

**POSITIONS:** Two (2)

**CONTRACT:** Two-years.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** EITHER High School Diploma (or G.E.D.) and four years of bookkeeping or related fiscal support experience OR an Associate's degree in a related field. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer  
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Telephone (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-007

Opening Date: December 23, 2010  
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

### Accounting Specialist

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional accounting support activities to include: verifying fund balances and obligating expenditures; reviewing open accounts and contracts; editing, posting delinquency notices and disconnection lists; preparing service orders for termination of accounts; processing travel documents; maintaining subsidiary ledgers; and, processing and filing payroll documents. Generates, reviews, analyzes, edits and distributes a wide variety of reports. Establishes and maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to complex customer complaints. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.

**SALARY:** \$21,612 TO \$22,920 per annum.

**POSITIONS:** Four (4)

**CONTRACT:** Two-years.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Associate Degree in Accounting and one to four years of progressively responsible experience related to the area of assignment. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Basic accounting principles; Billing procedures; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Preparing reports; Reconciling accounts and ledgers; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-008

Opening Date: December 23, 2010  
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

### Accountant

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May supervise accounting support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Maintains, monitors, and balances assigned funds. Performs professional accounting responsibilities, which includes: preparing general journal entries; ensuring proper departmental approvals; auditing accounts; assisting with annual audits; and, performing other related activities. Researches information on accounts for customers, internal departments, and other interested parties. Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, reconciliations, and statements to and from internal departments, financial institutions, and/or Local, State, and Federal agencies. Performs month-end and year-end closing of books of accounts for assigned funds. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.

**SALARY:** \$35,884 TO \$41,794 per annum.

**POSITIONS:** Three (3).

**CONTRACT:** Two-years.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Finance or a related field, plus one to three years of professional level accounting or finance. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Basic mathematics; Fixed asset accounting. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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# DPS offers safety guide for upcoming New Year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety released a number of safety precautions to ensure that the community safely celebrates the New Year, where fireworks and firecrackers are traditionally lit up to commemorate the holiday.

The department reminds families to never let their children handle, play with, or light any fireworks and firecrackers.

DPS is also asking adults to use firecrackers responsibly and that impaired individuals should not be allowed to do handle them.

DPS said that individuals should also not consume alcohol when using fireworks.

Other reminders include the following:

■ **Follow your local and state laws regarding the possession and use of fireworks:** Do not use illegal explosives; do not alter any firework device; and do not make your own fireworks. Use common sense at all times in handling fireworks;

■ **Use fireworks on a hard surface:** Use fireworks on a hard, flat, and level surface, not on grass or gravel. If you are using fireworks on grass, lay down a strong piece of plywood as a shooting surface. You must do what you can to ensure the stability of the items as you use them;

■ **Use in a clear, open area:** Use fireworks in a clear, open area, making sure the area overhead is free from obstructions. Keep the audience a safe distance away from the shooting site. Watch out for dry grass, dry brush or any flammable items that could catch fire. Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers;

■ **Keep clear of the fireworks:** Never put your head or any part of your body over the top of any fireworks product at any time. Never look into a tube to check on the firework item. Never hold a lighted firework in your hand;

■ **Use care in lighting the fireworks:** Always light fireworks products with an extended butane lighting device, a Phantom pyro-torch, a punk, or a flare. Light the fuse only on the tip. Use a flashlight at night so you can see the fuse. Never use a lantern or other flame-producing device near fireworks for illumination;

■ **Light the fireworks product and get away quickly;**

■ **One at a time:** Light only one firework item at a time;

■ **Do not use malfunctioning or "dud" items:** Don't persist with malfunctioning items. Never attempt to re-light, alter or fix any "dud" firework item;

■ **Have water close by:** Have a fire extinguisher, water

supply, hose or bucket of water nearby. During any fireworks shoot there should always be someone assigned as the fireman, whose job it is to be alert and at the ready with a water source for emergencies;

■ **Windy conditions:** Be cautious of lighting any fireworks during strong wind conditions. Light fireworks with prevailing wind blowing away from the spectators. If there is a wind shift during your shooting, you should stop or rearrange your shooting site to accommodate the wind shift;

■ **Use care in handling fireworks:** Use care in handling fireworks and be careful not to drop them. Do not carry fireworks in your pocket. Never smoke when handling fireworks;

■ **Never use fireworks as weapons:** Never use fireworks as weapons. Never aim, point or throw any fireworks at another person or at any property;

■ **Storage of fireworks:** Store fireworks in a cool, dry place and dispose of fireworks properly;

■ **Use of fireworks outdoors:** Use fireworks outdoors. Never use fireworks indoors;

■ **Special reloadable rules:** Never use a wet or damaged shell or launch tube. Insert shell all the way into the bottom of the tube, flat end down. Never force a shell into a tube. Use only one shell at a time. Wait at least 30 seconds between loading shells. Never ignite a shell outside of a launch tube. Never take the shell apart. Never re-light a fuse that fails to ignite the device. After lighting the fuse, move a minimum of 20 feet from the launch tube;

■ **Purchase fireworks from reliable dealers:** Purchase fireworks from reliable, licensed fireworks dealers. Do not use illegal explosives;

do not alter any fireworks; do not attempt to make your own fireworks; and

■ **Safety glasses:** Safety glasses are recommended for individuals lighting fireworks and those individuals in close proximity to the fireworks.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Safety Fire Division at 663-9003.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Security officer Leandro Mendijar, third from the left, is G4S Security Services (CNMI) Inc.'s employee of the month for November 2010. Mendijar is assigned at the Duty Free Shop Saipan. He is shown here being presented with his certificate of appreciation by G4S CNMI branch manager Moises K. Pangelinan, operations manager Kathy Casil, and supervisor Danilo S. Lapeceros.

G4S



## Have a Safe Holiday Season.

**National/CNMI Holiday Season  
Impaired Driving Month  
November 29, 2010 through January 3, 2011**

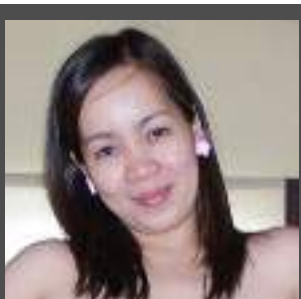


**DRUNK DRIVING  
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.**

**BAM! YOUR  
LIFE JUST  
CHANGED.**



Drive drunk and you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.



## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Franni O. Pineda, who celebrated her special day on Dec. 25! "With each year I'll love you more. Remember that your best years are still ahead of you and I'll be there for every up, down, and in between. I love you so much!" Greeting coming from your Jhey. "You are the best Mom in the world. Happy birthday to an awesome mom and a great friend." Your cute and adorable sons, JP and baby Jef. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BRUCE L. MAILMAN  
CNMI BAR ASSN #F0153  
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC  
PMB 238, Box 10,000  
Saipan, MP 96950-8900  
Telephone: 233-0081  
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0350
-v-	NOTICE OF SALE
MARIANO TEDIL ALDAN, aka MARINO TEDIL ALDAN, Defendant.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on December 13, 2010, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant Mariano Tedil Aldan aka Marino Tedil Aldan in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands: **LOT 010 K 121**, containing an area of 991 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 87-2911 dated August 19, 1987.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on January 7, 2011, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derece Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derece Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 16th day of December, 2010:  
  
/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

# 7.3 quake hits Pacific near Vanuatu

SYDNEY (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck under the sea near Vanuatu early Sunday, generating a small tsunami in the South Pacific. No damage or injuries were immediately reported. The 7.3 magnitude quake struck Sunday just after

midnight about 140 miles (225 kilometers) south of Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila. The U.S. Geological Survey said it was about 15 miles (24 kilometers) below the ocean floor. A tsunami wave measuring about 6 inches (15 centimeters)

was recorded on some coast-lines at Vanuatu, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said. New Caledonia and Fiji also were warned a tsunami was possible on their coasts, but the warning was canceled about an hour and a half after the temblor.

# Navy awards \$93.2M contract in Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded a \$93.2 million contract modification on Dec. 20 to DZSP 21, LLC of Philadelphia, Pa., for base operation support services for Joint Region Marianas.

Through this procurement action the Navy is exercising the second award option period under a previously awarded cost-plus-award-fee contract to DZSP 21, LLC.


“We are pleased to extend the professional relationship already in place with DZSP 21 as we

award this contract option,” said Capt. Peter Lynch, NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer. “Their focus on supporting the mission capability for our supported commanders has been noteworthy and we expect their contributions to continue throughout this upcoming performance period.”

Work will be performed for the bases that operate within the JRM construct, and includes general management and administration services; command and staff (public affairs office); public safety; port operations; ordnance;

material management; galley; facilities management & engineering services; sustainment, restoration and modernization; facilities services; utilities (potable water, waste water, electrical and steam and demineralized water); base support vehicles and equipment; and environmental.


Following the award of this second option, the total cumulative contract value will be \$494 million. Work is expected to be completed by December 2011, with contract funds set to expire at the end of the current fiscal year. (NAVFAC)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



# INVITATION FOR BID

## NMHC IFB 2010-012 - AMENDMENT #1

INVITATION FOR BID  
NMHC IFB 2010-012 – AMENDMENT #01

*This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.*

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **SINAPALO CHILDREN'S PARK REVITALIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**, in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **Monday, November 22, 2010**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, at telephone numbers. (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mr. Mark Manglona, Rota Field Office Representative, at (670) 532-9410. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$4.55 per hour as established by Federal law or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision No. CM100001 03/12/2010 CM1 superseded General Decision No. CM2008-0001, whichever is greater.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2010**, at the proposed project site located in Sinapalo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director of the NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2010-012**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Wednesday, December 29, 2010**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Wednesday, December 29, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Wednesday, December 29, 2010**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Wednesday, January 5, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Thursday, January 6, 2011**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **Wednesday, December 29, 2010**.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."


NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.


The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/S/Marcie M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/S/Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply



**NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.**



**Dec. 27, 2000**

**Teno OKs \$7.4M budget for Tinian delegation**

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has approved the budget request of the Tinian legislative delegation, giving the island municipality additional \$7.42 million to spend for this fiscal year. But he expressed concerns on key provisions of the appropriation measure, particularly for retroactive pay for employees with salary increase of less than \$40,000. Instead of vetoing the local bill passed by the Tinian legislative delegation and the municipal council on Dec. 5, Mr. Tenorio urged legislators from the municipality to correct the questionable provisions.

**New Hopwood exit installed**

The Saipan Mayor's Office has extended its arm to assist the Hopwood Junior High School administration ease the traffic congestion experienced by Chalan Piao motorists traveling the road to the HJHS campus during rush hours. Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan has volunteered services to Hopwood Principal David Borja and Vice Principal Alfredo I. Guerrero to install a new entrance and exit road at Saipan's lone junior high school by lending the agency's heavy equipment and community service division to open up a new gate. From August to December of this year, community members have complained about the traffic jam generated by the limited entrance and exit way especially during student drop-off and pick-up times.

**Dec. 27, 2001**

**Overflowing septic tank ordered closed**

The government ordered a construction company to completely shut down its overflowing septic tank, which has been a subject of four separate notices of violation in a span of more than a year. The Division of Environmental Quality, in an administrative order, also threatened to impose monetary sanctions against Elmer Ermitanio, owner of the EJ Construction Inc. The DEQ immediately ordered Ermitanio to stop the discharge of wastewater onto the ground of his leased property being used as barracks. DEQ acting administrator Antonio I. DeLeon Guerrero also required the businessman to stop using the existing septic tank on or before April 1, 2002.

**Hakubotan sued for breach of contract**

Two Saipan-based companies have lodged civil complaints against Hakubotan Saipan Enterprises Inc. for alleged breach of contract. Saipan Sunzen Co. Ltd. and Moylan's Insurance Underwriters (Int'l) Inc. each filed a civil suit before the Superior Court on allegations that the shopping firm failed to settle its outstanding dues to the plaintiffs. Court documents reveal that magazine publisher Saipan Sunzen had provided advertising services to Hakubotan in 2001, but the latter allegedly failed to pay for the services rendered. The respondent reportedly placed \$17,370 worth of advertising that was published in the plaintiff's magazine.

**Dec. 27, 2002**

**FEMA widens relief aid to typhoon victims**

Rota residents are now eligible to apply for individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through its Individual Assistance Program. Under this program, individuals and families are eligible for grants of up to \$25,000 to help in temporary housing needs, rebuilding damaged structures, aid in medical bills from injuries caused by the storm, replacing destroyed clothing and other effects, and even for crisis counseling to help overcome mental trauma caused by the storm. This has prompted Gov. Juan N. Babauta to praise all federal agencies and the local chapter of the American Red Cross yesterday for their efforts in bringing assistance to the typhoon ravaged island of Rota.

**Swift action on BoS rehab plan pushed**

Tony Pellegrino, leader of Save Our Savings leader-a group of Bank of Saipan depositors, yesterday emphasized the need to re-open the banking institution now. This, even as he acknowledged that good progress is being made in completing a rehabilitation plan for the Bank of Saipan. "SOS appreciates the need for a good plan, but the depositors need access to their money now," said Pellegrino. The BoS rehabilitation plan is currently on its third draft and work is now ongoing to make it final. Once a final draft is accepted by the Bank's Board of Directors and the major shareholders, and is endorsed by the court-appointed receiver, Antonio Muna, it will be presented to the Superior Court for approval. The Bank cannot reopen until the plan is approved.

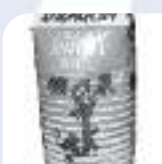


**JOETEN'S**

# After Christmas Sale

*Bargain In Every Aisle!***December 26-31****CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & DECORATIONS****50%off****CHRISTMAS LINENS****40%off****CHRISTMAS HOUSEWARES****40%off****CHRISTMAS WRAPPING AND RIBBONS****40%off****SELECTED STUFF ANIMALS****50%off****Christmas Gift Pack**  
**\$14.99****Ferrari Remote Control Car**  
**\$179.99****McLaren Remote Control Car**  
**\$104.99****Corelle Soup Bowl/Salad Plate**  
**\$6.29****Bed Sheet 80x90**  
**\$4.99****Crushed Sheer Panelk 60x84**  
**\$8.99****3 Leg Camping Chair**  
**\$3.99****Green Life Cooler Bag**  
**\$2.79****4pc. Beach Combo Set**  
**\$28.99****Contico Tuff Crate 12 Gal.**  
**\$13.99****Dietz Blue with Brass Rim**  
**\$16.99****3 Tier Slim Cabinet**  
**\$26.99****20pc. Microwave Cookware**  
**\$19.99****Banana Leaf Basket Medium**  
**\$9.99****Banana Leaf Basket Large**  
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**Check-out our wide selections and huge savings of Men's, Ladies, Boys, Girl's and Infant clothings!**

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**\$7.99****CSR Sugar White Poly 2kg/4.4lbs.**  
**\$1.99****Asian Dragon Sweet Rice**  
**\$3.99****Betty Yellow Cake Mix 18.25oz.**  
**\$1.99****WF Condensed Milk 14oz.**  
**\$2.35****WF Whole Kernel Corn 15oz.**  
**79¢**

## Frozen Products

**Chicken Leg Quarters 22lbs./Cs. (Limit 1)**  
**\$14.99/cs.****New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod**  
**\$1.95/lb.****NZ Beef Shoulder Steak Family Bag 8lb.**  
**\$14.99/bg.****Chicken Whole Fryers**  
**\$1.19/lb.****Tilapia Whole Frozen**  
**95¢/lb.****Milkfish Whole Frozen**  
**\$1.39/lb.****Big Buy Bacon Vapac 1lb. Limit 6**  
**\$1.89/ea.**

## U.S. Produce

**Look for these and more great savings throughout our store!**

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**\$1.69 /lb.****U.S. Oranges**  
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**69¢ /lb.****Brown Potato**  
**69¢ /lb.****Red Seedless Grapes**  
**\$1.99 /lb.****Honeydew**  
**\$1.15 /lb.**

**Visit us for more savings at our Produce section!**

# Aiko's

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Please call 234-6445 for daily specials!



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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## O Holy Night

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the  
Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

We've outgrown the bearded Santa on a water buffalo-driven *carizon*. We perspire just looking at a fur-lined coat. Dreaming of a white Christmas is not our preference, nor are we excited by yet another rerun of *What a Wonderful Life*, a hammering of what could have been had the character not been. Perhaps, a roundabout way of affirming what is, but that is like scaring people to live a decent life by foisting the fear of God with Hell.

Somewhere in the distant past, we received the deep cosmic affirmation on our life just for showing up, and in the ritual of the night before Christmas, the birthing of the baby Jesus was perforce our birthing as well, into the holiness of existence.

Vibrant faith is unconditional acceptance that entails the freedom to decide what to do with the life given to each of us. One can resign to passively float with the flow, or decisively participate in its grateful celebration by embodying the journey of the human spirit. Pinning about what is missing, or whining about the difficulty of living with the reality we've got are not options. The Christmas story has become our daily bread, the word of possibility becoming the blood stream of daily existence.

Unfortunately, *O Holy Night* has become divine ho-hum; its taken-for-granted-ness due to reductionist literalism as practiced in the marketplace of rituals devoid of grounding, cheapened by a once-a-year shopping spree diminishing our pocket books! Add the ease of the plastic card, and we are doomed to economic slavery.

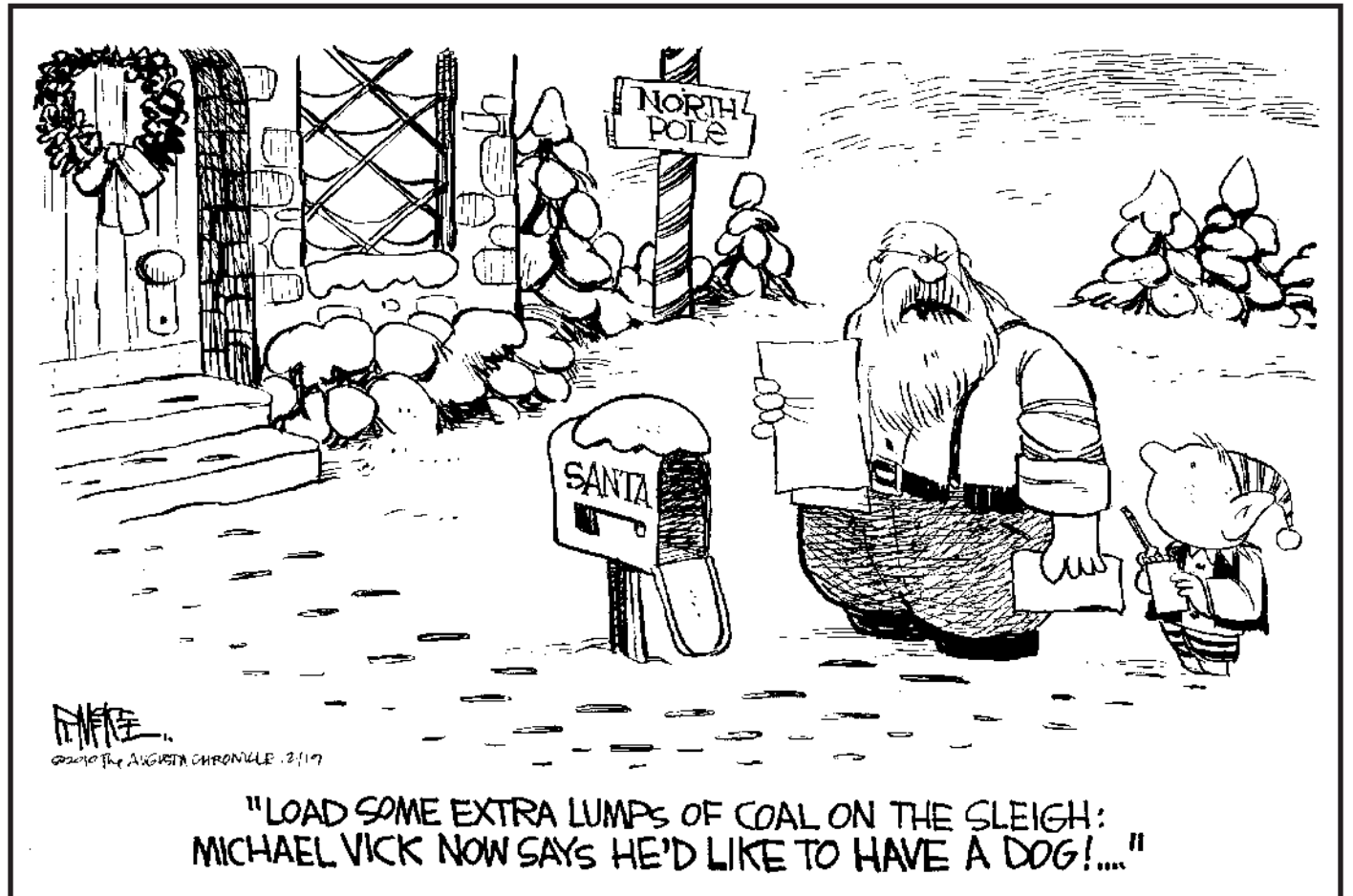
We've retained our childhood sense of wonder and awe, and we left behind in our juvenile hangouts the egotism of giving and receiving gifts, as well as the hedonistic abandon to the inebriated yuletide of twinkling lights. We do empty the cup, on occasion, but more as euphoric *vino* as it is bacchanalia in Godfather's catacomb.

The songs, stories, and symbols of the season, primarily coined in the landscape of agriculture, chivalrous and romantic, have gotten stuck in our inherited mindscapes, failing to keep up with the radical change of the new eco-terrain. Our lives in the past 500 years moved from pastureland and fishing water to the manufacturing plants, service stewards' offices, and now the virtual reality of cyberspace; the simplicity of the manger visited by three Kings harkens to a gone age of liege lords and charity tables, but its sentimentalism fails to address the challenge of a carbon-devastated *Eaarth* and the marginalization of human capital. More acute is the absence of economic justice, with shopping at Christmas and the abundance of *Noche Buena* becoming the pleasure of the privileged few while the mass blithely linger outside Galleria's doors.

Having just returned from the 20-below-zero frozenness of *Dong Bei*, we relish the mildness of the Siberian air in our December nights even as some of our warm-blooded colleagues don pullovers and think midnight in Paseo de Marianas is nippy! What struck me as odd is walking into some of our government and private sector offices. No wonder Uncle Ben insists that everyone wear a necktie at the office. The offices are cold. Wander into the Capital building, *Guma Hustisia*, or the USCIS office at the TLC in Garapan and the tropical cold indoors is no different from that of a Dakota external chill.

We now have two island generations who cannot handle perspiration if the aircon is off. No wonder CUC power production is constantly stressed. One of my SVES students kept complaining

See HOLY on Next Page



## Time for year-end inventory and plans for the new year

Wow! In just a few more days 2010 ends and will become history. Then 2011 will jump in with a bang! The islands will rock with songs, and popping champagne bottles will bring happy laughter as we party through the night. Hopefully it will bring a few hours of relief from the pains and memories of 2010. Just think 2010 has flown by and in a few more days we start a new one. Hello, 2011! Please be better than 2010.

Allow me a few moments of reflection on what the past year gave us. Was it a meaningful one or just another year in our lives? What did we do with it? Let's take a personal inventory of what we did or should have done during the past year. Let's use it as a benchmark for the New Year.

### A. Personal Life:

1. What did I do to improve myself?
2. Did I read any books?
3. Did I learn any new skills or new hobbies?
4. Did I seek out new ideas and use them?
5. What did I do to improve my relations with my spouse, children and friends?
6. What did I do to improve my mental and spiritual character?
7. What did I do to become a better person?
8. Did I merely consume mountains of meat, rice and beer, thereby expanding only my waist line?

### B. Business and Work Life:

1. Did I study how to improve my business and work habits?
2. Did I seek better relations with my customers and fellow employees?
3. Did I learn any new methods for improving my work so that I work smarter, not harder?
4. Did I do the same things throughout the year and just curse the bad business climate?
5. Did I complain about the lousy job I have instead of trying to improve it?
6. In plain words, what did I do to become a better employer or a better employee?

### C. Social and Community Life:

1. Did I participate in the clubs and associations I belong to?
2. Did I participate in the religious life of the community?
3. Did I reach out and help those less fortunate than me?
4. Did I concern myself with the social problems that beset our community?
5. Did I get involved in any of the economic and legal problems that are discussed in the community?
6. Basically, what did I give of myself to make my society a better one to live in?

These are only few of the questions we must ask ourselves as we take a yearend inventory. Unless we examine our lives, we will just vegetate as vegetables. Socrates, the old Greek philosopher, always

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in  
the CNMI and is the former president of  
the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

preached: "The unexamined life is not worth living."

The above personal examination reminds me of going into our clothes closet and looking over what clothes we have in there. What did we wear most during the year? What didn't we wear or not like anymore? Clearing our minds and settling new goals or adjusting the old ones is the same thing. If we don't do this once in awhile, we become overwhelmed and lose hope. Just do it!

As we examine our life of the past year, we will notice changes we can make in our personal life. As these personal changes mature, we realize that our new actions are also affecting the community. Our community will change for better or worse as we change. It is neither the government nor outside forces that make a community good or bad. It is us citizens and our attitude toward the community.

It's sad how few of us really take our life seriously. We seem to float in a stream. We don't seem to care in what direction the stream flows or how fast or how slowly it flows. We just drift along in it. Finally when we hit an embankment, we cannot figure out why it happened to us. Then to justify our failure or bad luck we blame others for our misfortune. We never ask ourselves: "Why didn't I succeed better in life? What did I do to deserve this?"

I had a tragedy this past year with the passing of my beloved wife. But I am still grateful for all the other good things that have happened to me. God has left me with three most wonderful children and is expecting me to teach them to grow straight and tall. This is my challenge for 2011. And I will do it!

Let us look at the beautiful sky and clouds and try our best. Sometimes we even spot a rainbow. When that happens, don't you feel grand? I am also thankful that some of you readers like what I write.

By writing what I feel, I experience a kinship with all of you even though we may not have met. I feel your pain and sadness in these troubling times. But I truly believe in us and in our ability to surmount all these challenges. We must strive forth with a staunch heart and a firm will. Let us meet 2011 with a hope of progress. It lies within us. We must keep believing we have acres of diamonds under our feet. Let us both dig for them together.

Someone once said: Some people die at 25 years old, but are not buried until 75 years old. This means they have never truly lived.

See TIME on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Finagpo humidde na finaposhu

**T**odu tinituhon guaha lokue finagpoña. Kulan kinahulu at-dau, siempre u machom gi sanlagu gi uttimon haane.

Parehu yan este na patte gi pahinan gaset. Estague’ uttimu tinige’hu. Hu sen agradese i tiempu, pinasensia, antau yan man-namagof siha na akonsehu parehu ha’ ginen i mas man-otdinariu yan menhalom.

Toduklasenkuttinahulie’man-mahatsayanmanafanunogguinesiha na gatbon islas. Tat chalan, barañka yan finu, ti hupokate gi fihon miyu. Guaha siha ayudu man-huyoñg ginen puntan lapeshu piot para i man-namase’. Guaha hu amisa pot diskuidon asuntun linahyan. Button konsensian publiku i silensiu na responsablidad yan chechu’ gaseteru. Estague offisioghu pot mas ke kuarenta años na tiempu.

Apmam hu akanteha gumuadog man-sustansiau siha na asuntu, diariamente. Ti mattu dinisehahu sumaunau gi redondun politika pot no baihu naen’ ñaihon dignoghu kumu guddian publiku. Pot esso na tumohgeyu’ gi huyoñg redondu.

Lau ginen este na pahina ‘nai hu abiba estudiau yan analisau na opiñion siha gi memegaiña na asuntun linahyan guine. Gai motmurasion lau ti ha halañgyu i burukan asuntu siha. Patte i buruka guine na offisiu.

Hu chage machochu’ para i mas man-antau, menhalom yan intellihte siha na man-ma’gas enteru iya Micronesia. Mayotmnte mañgahulu’ dispues kumu presidente ‘sino gobietnu entalu Palau, Marshalls, Chuuk, Pohbnpai yan Marianas. Ma atrebi siha u mes-gaihon tautau niha para mas yanu na plaset.

Tafagchae’ lokue tiempom abundansia. Lau ensegidas man-male-

fa hit hafa tinateña enna u suette siha gi hechuran sakrifisiu. Pagu ha topte hit didog na tiempom eskases. Este na pinadese lamayot patte pot diskuiduta. Pinadesen siglu gi enteru elmundo.

Maseha taiguine pinadesisita pagu, gaige dañkulu inañgogkoghu gi man-eskuekuela na famaguonta siha. Siempre u fañaunau gi filan areglu pot para u ma-adelanta haanen i manatatte dispues de siha.

Hunanae’ un’ dañkulu na agradesimientu i mañainahu pot makre-ansayu fitme deste pinatgonhu. Un’ dañkulu na felisitasion yan saludu para i maestraghu finu Chamorro as Nan Che’ Torres. Guiya muna’ fanuñgu-yu mañge’ gi liñguahihu.

Fanague famaguon miyu man-mañge’ gi finu niha. Guaha difi-rensia gi man-tuge’ na finu Chamorro yan hechuran konbetsasion. Impottante i eksisiu gi leksion mañge gi liñguahita. Petsige sin di-tension sa’ mauleg para i famaguonta siha piot gi areglon antau na pinetsige yan finapos.

Hana’ chatsaga siñienteghu i trabiha tita u’upos i fette na pagyun diskuidu. Teteñan i rimulinon linau yan hinalom tasi. Lau buente este na pasu siha patte gi sisteman demokrasia ‘nai solu areglo gaige gi disposision publiku.

Hu ebalua, pesa yan akanteha hafa mamamaila’. I sigiente linie’hu: Megai u fan hanau para otru lugat gi enteru elmundo. Memegaiña ti u bira siha mage fuerake pot dinaña familia. Lau dispues man-hanau tatte gi nuebu na lugat niha.

I guinifen famaguonta pot mañge na linala’ paraisu siempre u fattu. Lau siempre lokue’ u mapokate motmut yan fotten mattiron mattiempu siha. Muñga man-hinalañg sa’ dipotsihe i hemhom mo-

ington if he thinks the principles of the parties and your membership in a party doesn’t matter in Congress. But Rep. Benavente raised some good points about the reunification of the Covenant back with the GOP, which is truly a political game that is going to be played out in the coming future. I’m just wondering if there is going to be a checkmate for prosperity by the GOP from the governor’s first move or a stalemate with nothing happening to really help the people for another two or four years. Now that the big meeting for the governor’s return has been cancelled, it’s no telling what we can expect.

But I would like to offer this free advice to the GOP when they make their move. The Covenant is responsible for all of our conditions and, given this administration has been in charge for five years, the GOP doesn’t have to worry about being attached to their many failures. But the GOP should *not* accept the governor until he is willing to formally and publicly seek the support of *his* entire Covenant Party to join the GOP with him and it is imperative that he publicly declare his total allegiance to the GOP platform! This is not too much to ask if the governor truly wants to rejoin the party. Personally, I would also be demanding a public apology for splitting up the party and the voters for personal goals that only served to deliver economic hardships and bitter times.

The governor really has no choice but to deliver if he wants to save what’s left of his political real estate in the CNMI by joining the Republican Party. I’m also confident that with strong leaders like Diego in the party the governor won’t be taking over the party. The governor needs to be hoping and praying the GOP will accept him and take care of what will remain of his party, especially once he is out of office and his party is dead. I also used the wrong terminology when I said “merger” because it *will not* be one but merely new members being added to the GOP. I feel safe in saying the governor *will not* take care of the party (which really means *take over* the party) because the GOP can surely checkmate the governor.

us going haywire in the interior castle.

But the inner crisis is a failure of nerve and not the breakdown of the authority of authenticity. Holy night is more than affirming the good things in life; it is the total unconditional acceptance of life itself, warts, graces, et al, and that epiphany is what is missing in our current spineless holy celebration. Christmas eve and Christmas night were raucous at my apartment complex. It was loud and escapist, hardly holy. So we let the sacred be embodied in our silence. Silent night, O holy night.

## TIME

From Page 10

Are you one of them? It is not too late to wake up and start a new life. Come let’s join hands and do it together. It’s 2011!

Success has been defined as the “progressive realization of a worthy goal.” Let’s define our goal and begin our journey toward our “progressive goal.” Take the personal inventory above and listen to the answers truthfully. Determine that 2011 will be the best and happiest year. A better road waits.

Happy New Year! Welcome 2011!

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.*



fona ke manana.

I famaguonta u mapechiñg i achon kinalamten siha. Gi hilu pinasensia yan fitme na ditetminasion, u ma-esgaihon mona i galaide tano’ta. Ni hafa na ira u fattu, siempre u pasifiku i tasi dispues k-sake siña u fan halom gi sagua O’ Perlas iya Pasifiku.

Na fitme mas i kutturan yan tradison tanu gi todou pinetsige. Hatsa ilon miyu ya inna’ fan banidosu hamyu nu i tradision natibu. Dipotsihe naturat na mampos ti yanu i plaset ni ta pokakate gi ansiau na diniseha para ta tanom muhon ginefsaga.

Hu hatsa esta layaghu para bai’ tutuhon kareran ritirau petman-ente sa’ guaha otru siha para bai’ tuge’ gi hechuran leblu.

Felis lamayot patte karerahu guine gi mapas na kuarenta años. I button hogsu u faliñgu gi santatte, kontodu i ininan atdau gi sanlagu. I potsu’ linala’ u kontinuague para i manatatte. Un’ dañkulu na Si Yuus Maase’ para todus. I Saina u bendise hit gi hinalom i nuebu na sakan. Felis Año Nuebu para todus. Adios yan si Yuus Maase’!

Since we’re on the subject of headlines: It should be duly noted that when the headlines read “landslide” for Kilili, that was incorrect. A landslide is when a candidate receives an overwhelming majority (two-thirds or 66 percent up) of *all* votes cast but Kilili only received 43 percent of the votes, meaning the true majority didn’t even vote for Kilili. The proper technical term should have been a “sweeping” victory of all precincts, not a landslide. Headlines can be very subliminally leading and misleading readers, as you can see. But notice the 57 percent who didn’t vote for Kilili are the same divided people voting in previous elections that forced us to create a majority vote law for governor and has prevented voters from selecting the best candidate for years. This is just another example in the delegate race of why education is needed on the politics of voting in the CNMI, even for newspapers. I keep saying we are too small to be so divided when one of four candidates can easily be lucky and win without getting the true majority vote. The odds in the delegate race were 3 to 1 against us getting it right and we lost again. The CNMI needs two strong parties to lower the odds for success or we will continue this multiple choice guessing game that is more like Family Feud due to our politics being directly tied to families.

**Ambrose M. Bennett**

Kagman, Saipan

# Merry Christmas from Afghanistan

I would like to greet the entire people of Saipan a very merry Christmas coming straight from the deserts of Afghanistan. Special greetings to my nieces and nephews: Brittany, Clayton, Boboy, Sierra, Nana, and Keoni. To mother and father-in-law, Lourdes and Antonio DeLeon Guerrero, to my brothers Ton, Pep, and Sid and their families, and my “brothers” down in Susupe. That is quite a list, ain’t it? To all those whom I did not include, you’re on the “entire people of Saipan list.” Stay safe, have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

**SPC Glenn C. Sablan**

Boldak, Afghanistan

# Joyless Christmas

On Christmas morning, the people of the CNMI found coal in their stockings. Instead of better times, we received payless paydays, payless holidays, more business closures, higher unemployment, more abandoned buildings, more poverty, more crimes, a higher deficit, and more to come. Imagine, four more years of this useless administration. Fitial should just do everyone a favor and step down once and for all.

Let it be over!

**Ton Aldan**

Kagman, Saipan

## HOLY

From Page 10

that she could not properly study in class because the aircon was broken. She was, of course, wearing the latest woolen autumn fashion. Pea Eye summer capital Baguio City was built for 15,000 people max, overrun by a 500,000 population; Ebai in the Marshalls built for 600 families houses a 12,000 crowd. One understands the retreat into the air-conditioned environment. Saipan’s 50,000 people easily overload island infrastructures. In the dramaturgy of the Christian season, Innocents’ Day follows Nativity; the globalization of innocent suffering in our time leaves us cold.






EPA estimates that one out of six of us now suffer from some form of neurological disorder abetted by common chemicals. After not seeing my autistic kids for three years, I received their most recent school pictures the other day, and at the CK P.O. I found myself uncontrollably shedding tears. Their facial expressions marked noticeable disabilities that were not there before, and the combination of sadness in our helplessness over the children’s conditions (plus the collapse of a marriage), even as we recall the 15 years we dealt with similarly afflicted families had



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼76
Kosrae	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲81 ▼77

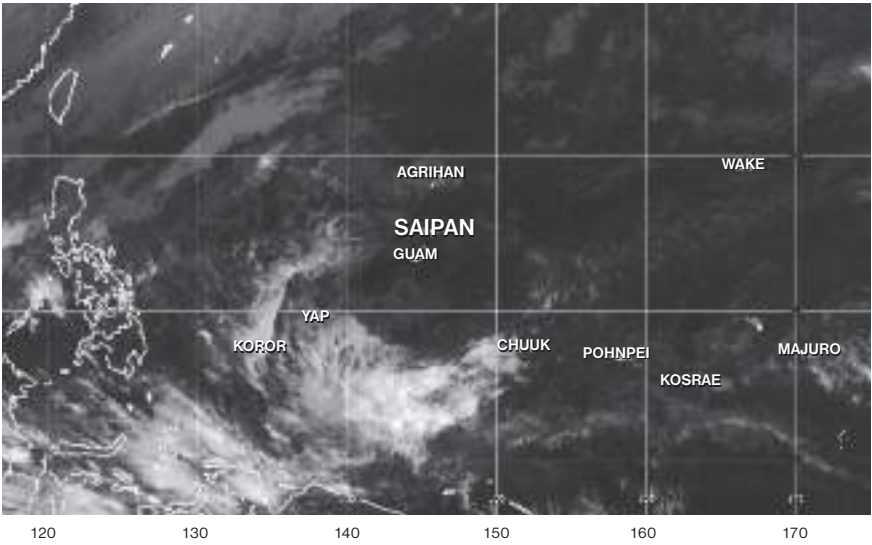
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲71 ▼66
Beijing	Sunny	▲31 ▼14
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲69 ▼45
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼69
London	Cloudy	▲40 ▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲66 ▼46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲72 ▼50
Miami	Sunny	▲60 ▼37
New York	Snow	▲29 ▼23
Osaka	Showers	▲54 ▼39
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲33 ▼28
Pusan	Showers	▲49 ▼30
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲48 ▼35
Salem	Showers	▲45 ▼45
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼53
Seoul	Snow	▲34 ▼21
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲54 ▼39
Washington, DC	Snow	▲34 ▼28

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
12:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
7:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2010**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from near Midway Island through 25N180 to northeast of Wake Island at 22N170E then continues as a shear line to Anatahan at 16N145E to finally end at 14N133E. Cloudiness and areas of light rain are found along and up to 180 miles northwest of the cold front. Patchy clouds and widely scattered showers are seen along and up to 150 miles northwest of the shear line. A surface trough runs northwestward from 6N134E to beyond 130E at 20N. Scattered showers are present near the trough axis or between Koror and Yap within 90 miles of a line from 14N130E to 13N133E to 6N138E. A near-equatorial trough reaches southeastward from Mindanao through 5N130E to end at EQ142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the southeastern end of the trough between the equator and 5N from 133E to 146E. Another surface trough heads northeastward from south of Chuuk at 4N151E to south of Wake Island at 17N167E. Scattered showers are evident just south of Chuuk near the trough axis within 100 miles of a line from 3N147E to 7N155E. Widely scattered showers are also happening between Chuuk and Wake Island within 95 miles of a line from 12N155E to 17N170E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing widely scattered showers over Kwajalein, Majuro and eastward to the date line between 6N and 8N from 168E to 180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Tuesday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Wednesday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Thursday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:41 PM	11:10 AM
Tuesday		11:53 AM
Wednesday	12:38 AM	12:37 PM
Thursday	1:35 AM	1:23 PM
Friday	2:34 AM	2:13 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS**  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMU'T SARI**  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE**  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
  - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

- Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
  - \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
  - Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# CNMI gets \$6M ad exposure through Korean show

Negotiations by the Marianas Visitors Authority have drawn another major Korea television network to the Northern Marianas for filming, which will bring US\$6 million in ad exposure for this resort destination.

## MVA welcomes two familiarization tours this month

Two special groups arrived in the Northern Marianas from Japan last Friday (Dec. 17) for FAM—or familiarization—tours aimed at promoting the destination to potential tourists.

MVA and Asiana Airlines hosted nine travel agents and two airline staff for a 3-day tour of Saipan hotels and attractions. The FAM tour aimed to familiarize participants with local accommodations in preparation for the resumption of Osaka-Saipan winter flights. The group visited Managaha Island and DFS Galleria, and the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) provided details about other destination attractions through the MVA Marianas Seminar. The tour inspected Mariana Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Saipan World Resort, Saipan Grand Hotel, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

“The purpose of this FAM tour is to give front-line travel agents and airline staff the opportunity to see the Northern Marianas product for themselves, so they can better sell our destination to potential visitors,” said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. “Osaka remains a key source city for the Northern Marianas, and the ideal would be to have enough demand to keep flights operating from that city year-round.”

Meanwhile, Osaka cable and Internet television station K-CAT TV had a crew on Saipan that departed on Monday (Dec. 20). Saipan will be featured in the first half of January 2011 on the weekly information news program “Shireba Shiruhodo!” (“Want to Know More!”). The television show will introduce Saipan as the closest beach destination to Japan, reachable via a three-hour flight.

The show is expected to feature historic sites including Banzai Cliff and Katori Shrine at Sugar King Park, as well as recreational activities including parasailing, sunset dinner cruises, shopping, submarine tours and the dinner show of Fiesta Resort & Spa, where the crew lodged during their stay. Filming also took place at Garapan Elementary School and San Vicente Elementary School. The estimated ad exposure value of the program is over US\$36,000. (MVA)

KBS 2TV’s popular weekend entertainment show “Go! Dream Team Season 2” filmed on Saipan from Nov. 29 to Dec. 4, 2010, and featured numerous Korean celebrities.

“‘Dream Team’ is a tremendous opportunity for the MVA to reach millions of viewers in our primary tourism market of Korea,” said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. “The show’s producers were very happy with their filming [on] Saipan, especially with the scenery and the on-set bonding that developed between the actors. This was a sound investment of our limited promotional resources.”

“Dream Team” reaches 15 million viewers of all ages and airs on Sunday mornings. The three Saipan episodes were scheduled for airing starting on Dec. 26 and will be extended from the normal 70 minutes to 80 minutes. Some of the locations included are Managaha Island, Mt. Tapochau, Bird Island, Saipan World Resort, and numerous beaches.

“Go! Dream Team” producer Jin-Hak Jeon said, “We’d like to visit Saipan every winter for the training camp. The short travel time is great, and the beautiful coral beaches and the nature are just perfect for the Dream Team’s sports games.”

The MVA supported the filming with airfare, ground transportation, filming permits, visas, and coordination. The filming was also supported by Asiana Airlines and Saipan World Resort.

“This will be an excellent opportunity to enhance awareness of the Northern Marianas by linking with popular celebrities via sponsorship,” said Bateman. “We’re looking forward to positive results next year from Ko-

## MVA named most active NTO in Korea

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has been recognized by Korea’s leading travel weekly Global Travel News as the Most Active National Tourism Office in proportion to budget, besting 21 other international NTOs.

MVA Korea was selected by GTN based on NTO assessments for 2010. The Northern Mariana Islands shares the top

honor with Hawaii, also represented in Korea by AVIAREPS Marketing Garden.

“The Marianas Visitors Authority has been very strategic in our spending due to our limited budget, and it’s an honor to be recognized for our efforts,” said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. “The MVA office in Korea was highly evaluated for maintaining strong

partnerships with our trade partners in Korea and also for extending its marketing efforts to other parts of Korea beyond Seoul. I credit our Korea-based and NMI team for their hard work on behalf of Northern Marianas tourism.”

GTN is a leading trade weekly in Korea and featured the selection as a front page article earlier this month. GTN evalu-

ated eight Asian NTOs, (China, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Macau), six American NTOs (Hawaii, Canada, Alberta, Las Vegas, New York, Mariana Islands), two Oceanian NTOs (Australia, New Zealand), four European NTOs (France, England, Norway and Munich) and three other NTOs (India, Egypt, Israel) in order to choose the winner. (MVA)



“Go! Dream Team” celebrity contestants on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands will be featured on the popular Korean television show beginning yesterday, Dec. 26. The show filmed on Saipan earlier this month and will bring an estimated \$6 million in ad exposure for the resort destination. MVA

rea through this promotion of our islands as a highly dynamic travel destination.”

Fifty-three cast and crew visited Saipan as part of the filming. (MVA)



“Go! Dream Team” celebrity contestants from the popular Korean television show at Outer Cove Marina on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands where the show was on location earlier this month. MVA

Contestants of “Go! Dream Team,” a popular Korean television show, enjoy their winnings atop Mt. Tapochau on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The show filmed in Saipan earlier this month. MVA



▲ The production crew of “Go! Dream Team,” a popular show of Korean television network KBS, films celebrity contestants as they make their way to Bird Island, a small coral outcrop near the reef of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The television episodes began airing in Korea yesterday, Dec. 26, to an estimated 15 million viewers. MVA





# Business

## Foremost donates 215 cases of non-fat milk

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Foremost Foods Saipan took on the role of Santa Claus with the donation of 215 cases of Foremost Non-Fat Milk to different establishments last Dec. 22.

To reinforce its commitment to promote a healthier lifestyle this holiday season, Foremost Foods Saipan gave 65 cases to the Aging Center, 50 cases to Commonwealth Health Center, 50 cases to Karidat, and another 50 cases of milk to the Salvation Army.

All four organizations expressed their appreciation to Foremost Foods Saipan for the timely donation.

Office on Aging director Rose Mondala said the donated milk will help enhance the diet of the *man'amko* at the

Aging Center. "Having non-fat milk is a big step to live healthier," she said.

CHC Dietary Unit food supervisor Joseph Tudela said the donation is a big help for the patients at the hospital. "Merry

Christmas and thanks to Foremost for the donation we received again," he added.

Salvation Army ministry leader Wayne Gillespie welcomed the milk donation since their group is affected by the

island's tough economy, especially during the holidays. "Milk is a very important thing we distribute to all our clients. We are extremely grateful that Foremost donated dairy product to our food bank," he said.



▲ Glen D. Hunter, right, group business manager, Transpacific International Inc., expresses his gratitude to the congregates of the Man'Amko Center and shared with them the donation of 65 cases of non-fat milk. With Hunter is Rose Mondala, director, Office on Aging, who touted the health benefits of drinking non-fat milk. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

▲ Karidat receives 50 cases of Foremost Non-Fat Milk donation. From left, Glen D. Hunter, group business manager, Transpacific International Inc., Gloria Deltang, social worker, Karidat; Judith Pangelinan, administrative officer, Karidat; and Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Joe Tudela, food supervisor II for the dietary unit, Commonwealth Health Center, receives the 50 cases of milk donation from Glen D. Hunter, group business manager, Transpacific International Inc.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Salvation Army receives 50 cases of non-fat milk donation from Foremost at the time when they ran out of milk supplies. In the photo are, from left, Rusty Loyola, operations manager, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc.; Wayne Gillespie, ministry leader, Salvation Army; and Glen D. Hunter, right, group business manager, Transpacific International Inc.

## Holiday 2010: The year shoppers came back

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Shoppers came back in force for the holidays, right to the end. After two dreary years, Christmas 2010 will go down as the holiday Americans rediscovered how much they like to shop.

People spent more than expected on family and friends and splurged on themselves, too, an ingredient missing for two years. Clothing such as fur vests and beaded sweaters replaced practical items like pots and pans. Even the family dog is getting a little something extra.

"You saw joy back in the holiday season," said Sherif Mityas, partner in the retail practice at A.T. Kearney.

A strong Christmas Eve augmented a great season for retailers. The National Retail Federation predicts spending this holiday season will reach \$451.5 billion, up 3.3 percent over last year.

That would be the biggest increase since 2006, and the largest total since a record \$452.8

billion in 2007. The holiday season runs from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, so a strong week after Christmas could still make this the biggest of all time. Spending numbers through Dec. 24 won't be available until next week and final numbers, through Dec. 31, arrive next month.

The economy hasn't improved significantly from last year. Unemployment is 9.8 percent, credit remains tight and the housing market is moribund. But recent economic reports suggest employers are laying off fewer workers and businesses are spending more. Consumer confidence is rising.

"I was unemployed last year, so I'm feeling better," said Hope Jackson, who was at Maryland's Mall in Columbia on Friday morning. Jackson bought laptops and PlayStation 2 games for her three daughters earlier in the season but was at the mall on Christmas Eve to grab \$50 shirts marked down to \$12 at Aeropostale.

Some spending growth online has been driven by free shipping offers and convenience. From Oct. 31 through Thursday, about \$36 billion has been spent online, a 15 percent increase over last year, according to MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse.

Taubman Centers and Mall of America have reported strong clothing sales, which was a hard sell last year. Jewelry sales sparkled throughout the season.

Stores expect solid profits because they didn't have to slash prices as Christmas neared, analysts say.

Some habits adopted during the recession lingered. Shoppers used cash more and credit cards less.

The final six days of the holiday shopping season are Sunday through next Friday. They're only 10 percent of the 61 holiday shopping days but can account for more than 15 percent of spending.

For the economy, the key question is whether strong

spending this holiday season will continue into the new year.

Still, stores were encouraged by what they saw in the final stretch of the holiday season.

Even pets made it back onto

gift lists this year. Three Dog Bakery, a pet-supply chain in Clinton Township, Mich., whose specialties include \$15.99 jars of banana-nut dog cookies, opened three years ago at the start of the recession.

"We opened at the worst possible time in the world.

Everyone was pulling back," owner Chad Konzen said. Wednesday, the store had its best day ever. "Gourmet, all-natural dog treats are not a necessity," Konzen said. "But now people are feeling more comfortable. You can only be thrifty for so long."

### BY THE NUMBERS

Shoppers came back big this holiday season, driving spending that's expected to approach the 2007 record. Some facts and figures on holiday shopping:

#### OVERALL HOLIDAY SPENDING

Overall holiday retail spending, excluding autos, gasoline and restaurants, and percentage increase from the year before:

- 2010 (projected): \$451.5 billion, up 3.3 percent
- 2009: \$437 billion, up 0.4%
- 2008: \$435 billion, down 3.9%
- 2007: \$453 billion, up 1.8%

- 2006: \$445 billion, up 3.1%
- 2005: \$431 billion, up 5.5%
- 2004: \$409 billion, up 5.9%
- 2003: \$386 billion, up 4.7%
- 2002: \$369 billion, up 1.3%
- 2001: \$364 billion, up 3.4%
- 2000: \$352 billion, up 2.3%

#### ONLINE

- Spending hit \$28.4 billion Nov 1-Dec. 19, up 12 percent from last year.
- The week ending Dec. 19 was the heaviest online shopping week ever, at \$5.5 billion. (AP)



# Nation

## Major winter storm barrels up the East Coast

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—A winter storm that brought a rare white Christmas to parts of the South barreled up the East Coast on Saturday night, with forecasters predicting 6 to 10 inches of snow Sunday for Washington and blizzard conditions for New York City and the New Jersey shore.

Virginia and North Carolina declared states of emergency as crews tried to clear snowy and icy highways. Authorities in Mid-Atlantic states spent Christmas Day preparing for up to a foot of snowfall. And airlines began canceling flights in the Northeast corridor before the intensifying storm descended on the region.

The storm was already scrambling the plans of holiday travelers along the Eastern Seaboard. Motorists will be facing treacherous road conditions in many states Sunday with blowing snow and low visibility, and the snow is likely to strand many air travelers. Continental Airlines canceled 250 departures from Newark Liberty International Airport outside New York City.

“Our concern is tomorrow it’s going to get significantly colder,” Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell told The Weather



An overturned SUV lies in a snowy ditch along I-40 East in North Carolina at mile marker 48 on Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010. AP

er Channel. “Winds with gusts up to 45 miles per hour will cause blowing snow and that’s going to cause the worst of it ... and we’re urging extreme caution in travel. Try to get home early and if you

don’t have to travel don’t go.”

As of late Saturday evening, the National Weather Service had issued winter weather warnings from north Georgia to southern New England.

Winter weather watches were in effect for eastern Tennessee and Kentucky up to West Virginia.

A blizzard warning was issued for New York City for Sunday and Mon-

day, with a forecast of 11 to 16 inches of snow and strong winds that will reduce visibility to near zero at times. As much as 18 inches could fall on the New Jersey shore. Heavy snow was also predicted for Philadelphia and Boston.

United Airlines said weather conditions would likely force delays and cancellations at United’s hub at Washington Dulles International Airport and at other northeastern airports between Saturday and Monday.

“At this point, the forecast calls for less snow at Dulles” than in the New York area, United spokesman Michael Trevino said in an e-mail Saturday night. “As a result, the team is still working through the plan for that station and whether any pro-active cancellations will be necessary.”

Both carriers are waiving fees for one-time changes in affected areas and urged passengers to make changes through their web sites.

The Carolinas got their first white Christmas in decades as snow began falling Saturday morning in Asheville, N.C., spread to Raleigh by noon and was forecast to stretch to the coast later in the day.

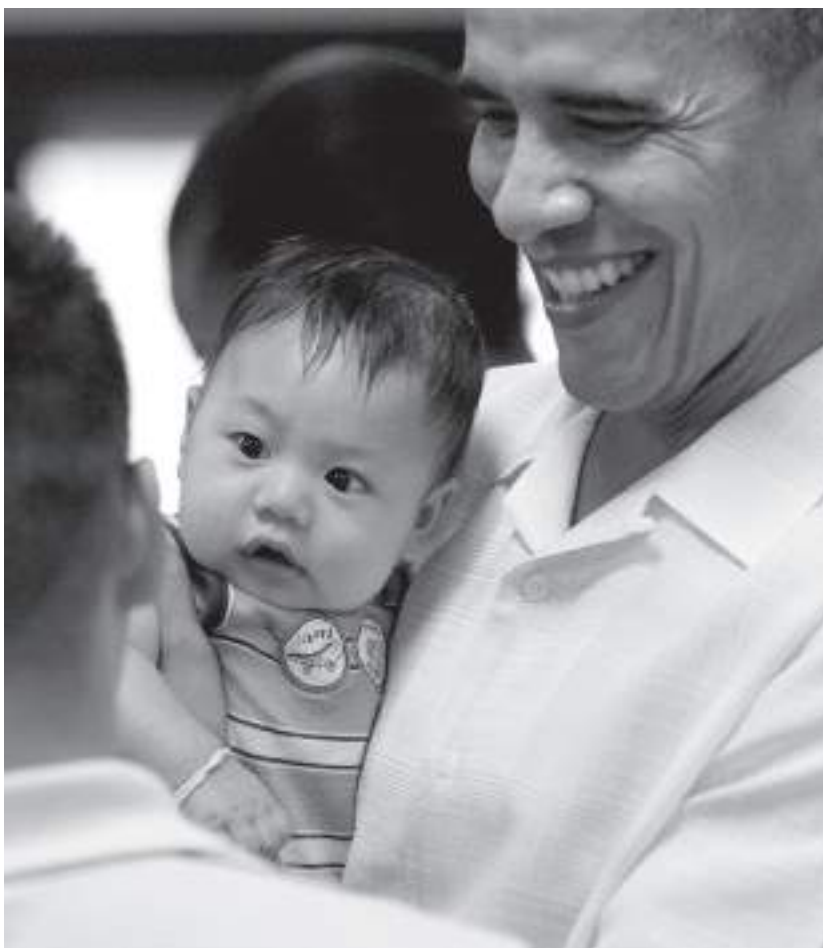
**HONOLULU (AP)**—President Barack Obama capped a quiet Christmas Saturday with a surprise visit to a Marine base to thank U.S. troops for the sacrifices they’ve made, including being away from their families at the holidays.

The president, along with his wife, Michelle Obama, spent more than an hour shaking hands and hugging service members who had arrived for Christmas dinner at the mess hall at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. It’s the third year in a row the Obamas have visited the base on Christmas.

The president, dressed casually in a short-sleeved shirt and dark grey pants for the most visible outing of his Hawaiian vacation thus far, made no formal remarks, instead greeting service members individually. He told one athletic-looking man that he should join Obama’s basketball team so the president could avoid getting an “elbow in the lip”, a reference to the injury Obama suffered during a game last month.

With U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and other outposts around

## Obama caps Christmas by visiting US troops



the world, the Obamas also used the president’s weekly radio and Internet address to encourage Americans to find ways to support service members during the holiday season.

“Let’s all remind them this holiday season that we’re thinking of them, and that America will forever be here for them, just as they’ve been there for us,” the president said.

Mrs. Obama, who has made working with military families one of her top priorities as first lady, said Americans don’t need to be experts in military life in order to give back to those who serve their country. She urged the public to reach out through their schools and churches, or volunteer with organizations that support military families.

“Anybody can send a care package or pre-paid calling card to the front lines, or give what’s sometimes the most important gift of all: simply saying thank you,” Mrs. Obama said.

Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, spent Christmas in Washington, where they visited wounded soldiers and their families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The Obamas and daughters Malia and Sasha are staying at a luxurious

oceanfront home in Kailua. The first family celebrated Christmas with a small circle of friends and family, including some of Obama’s childhood friends and the president’s sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, who lives here on Oahu, the island where Obama was born and spent much of his childhood.

The Obamas dined on steak, roasted potatoes, green beans and pie, and the sports-obsessed president got a chance to relax and watch some NBA basketball.

The president’s Christmas was been far quieter than last year’s holiday, when a 23-year-old Nigerian man allegedly attempted to blow up a plane bound for Detroit. The incident raised questions about the nation’s terror readiness and consumed the rest of Obama’s vacation.

Thus far, Obama’s excursions in Hawaii have been mostly to the gym and golf course. On Christmas Eve he visited the beach with his daughters.

Mrs. Obama gave some lucky children a Christmas Eve surprise when she answered calls for the “Tracking Santa” program, a Christmas tradition run by the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD. With help from NORAD’s Santa Route Schedule, Mrs. Obama was able to tell children Santa’s whereabouts as he delivered presents around the world.



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Unexploded homemade bombs found in Colorado store

**ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)**—Police in the Denver suburb of Englewood say 10 unexploded homemade bombs were found in a cell phone store after they were thrown through the windows. Police say the bombs were found in the CTG Wireless store in a strip mall on Friday. No injuries were reported. The Denver Post reports that nearby stores were evacuated while the Arapahoe County bomb squad

gathered the devices. Authorities declined to release details about the explosives, citing the ongoing investigation. Englewood police say the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is assisting the investigation.

#### Venezuelan ex-president Carlos Andres Perez dies

**MIAMI (AP)**—Former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, whose popularity soared with his country’s oil-based economy but who later faced

riots, a severe economic downturn and impeachment in his homeland, has died in Miami, his family said Saturday. The 88-year-old Perez’s daughter, Maria Francia Perez, said her father had died in a Miami area hospital. “He was happy and well when he awoke this morning. Suddenly he had difficulty breathing,” she told The Associated Press by telephone. She said her father was rushed by the family to the hospital, where he died Saturday afternoon. Venezuelan TV channel Globovision had quoted the

daughter initially in reporting Perez had suffered a heart attack but she denied that to AP, citing “respiratory failure.”

#### Armed man at Mormon temple killed in Utah shootout

**SOUTH JORDAN, Utah (AP)**—A man armed with a shotgun outside a Mormon temple near Salt Lake City was shot and killed by police Christmas Day, a television station reported Saturday. The man had been in an alterca-

tion with another man in the parking lot outside the Oquirrh Mountain Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in South Jordan, Fox13 said. The confrontation began about 12:30 p.m. Police arrived shortly afterward and repeatedly ordered the shotgun-toting man to drop the weapon, South Jordan police Lt. Dan Starks said. When he refused, one officer opened fire, Starks said. Officers found numerous weapons, including guns, swords and ammunition, inside the dead man’s car, Starks said.



# Asia

## Bombing wounds 11 at Christmas Mass in PH

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A bomb exploded during Christmas Day Mass at a chapel inside a police camp in the volatile southern Philippines, wounding a priest and 10 churchgoers.

The device was hidden in a ventilation window near the ceiling of the chapel, which is on the compound where the provincial police office is located in Jolo town on Jolo Island, Sulu provincial police said.

The island is a stronghold of al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants, but it wasn't clear who was responsible for the bombing. Investigators recovered parts of a cell phone they believe detonated the device.

All of the wounded were civilians. One woman remained at a hospital for observation later Saturday, but police said one did not need hospital treatment and the others have been treated and sent home.

The Rev. Romeo Villanueva, 72, said a newly ordained priest, the Rev. Ricky Bacoldol, who was assisting him, was thrown off his feet by the blast impact and suffered a slight leg injury.

"I was reading the Gospel. I was not yet finished when there

was a loud explosion," Villanueva told The Associated Press by telephone.

The roof over the front of the church collapsed and wooden beams and other debris flew in all directions. A portion of the ceiling shielded the organist from the blast, Villanueva said.

About 50 people were inside the church but many more were arriving at the time, he said.

President Benigno Aquino III's spokesman, Edwin Laci-

erda, said the bombing "violates the basic tenets of respect and peace of all who hold their faith dear." He said there could be no religious or political justification for the attack.

The Philippines is predominantly Catholic, but Christians are a minority on Jolo and nearby island provinces that are majority Muslim.

A bombing at the main Jolo cathedral last year killed two churchgoers, and the cathedral has been attacked in the past with grenades. The Abu Sayyaf, notorious for high-profile kidnappings and beheadings, has been blamed for those attacks.



Roman Catholic priest Fr. Romeo Villanueva surveys the damage of a Catholic chapel following an explosion during a Christmas Day mass Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010 at the volatile island of Jolo, Sulu province in southern Philippines.

## PH pushes for peace with Marxist rebels

**DAVAO, Philippines (AP)**—Promises by the Philippines' popular new president to tackle poverty and corruption could boost upcoming peace talks with rebels and make irrelevant the country's communist insurgency, which turned 42 on Sunday, the government's negotiator said.

Guerrillas of the New People's Army—one of Asia's most resilient Maoist forces, enduring decades of military crackdowns—celebrated the anniversary in their jungle camps with a vow to intensify attacks. But behind the scenes, negotiators on both sides have already agreed to resume talks after six years—fruits of the political goodwill and optimism that followed the May election of reformist President Benigno Aquino III.

Aquino represents "the new

dynamics" of the Philippines, chief government negotiator Alexander Padilla told The Associated Press this week.

Padilla said that Aquino, who enjoys support across the political spectrum as the son of revered democracy icons, would inject honesty, good faith and a strong advocacy for reforms and human rights into peace talks that have often been undermined by mistrust and weak public support.

"This could be the best opportunity for the other side to really come up with a political settlement," Padilla said of the talks, scheduled for February.

Engendered by the Cold War in the late 1960s, the rural-based insurrection led by the underground Communist Party of the Philippines has emerged

as this Southeast Asian nation's most serious security menace, stoked by decades of poverty, agrarian unrest, government corruption and misrule. Five presidents have failed to crush the Maoist rebellion, which has killed at least 120,000 combatants and civilians.

Washington has blacklisted the Communist Party and its armed wing, the 5,000-strong New People's Army, as terrorist organizations, blaming them for separate attacks that killed four American military personnel in the 1980s.

The rebels walked away from peace talks brokered by Norway in 2004, suspecting then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's government of instigating their inclusion on U.S. and EU terrorist lists.

### NKorea troops boast of artillery attacks on SKorea

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korean soldiers have boasted on state television they attacked South Korea last month as immediate retaliation after the South fired first. Tensions have been high since the Nov. 23 artillery shelling killed four South Koreans. Soldier Kim Moon Chol says, "Our eyes were full of fire right after we saw the enemy's shells being fired into our sacred waters." Another soldier, Kim Kyong Su, says the North's strike showed "no mercy at all." The soldiers spoke on a program that aired Friday marking Saturday's 19th anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il's appointment as the North's military commander.

# World

## Nigeria: At least 38 killed in Christmas Eve attacks

**JOS, Nigeria (AP)**—Multiple explosions in central Nigeria have killed 32 people and six others died in attacks by Muslim sect members on two churches in the north, officials said Saturday.

Police spokesman Mohammed Lerama said that 32 people died and at least 74 were injured in four bomb blasts Friday night that went off in close succession in different parts of Jos in central Nigeria—a region violently divided between Christians and Muslims.

Manasie Phampe, the Red Cross secretary in Jos, gave

slightly different figures and said that 52 people were injured, and that some of the injured were in intensive care at the Jos University Teaching Hospital.

"We have commenced investigations and are making efforts to calm people down," said Lerama.

Religious violence has claimed over 500 lives this year in Jos and neighboring towns and villages, but the situation was believed to have calmed down.

Nigeria, a country of 150 million people, is almost even-

ly split between Muslims in the north and the predominantly Christian south. The blasts happened in central Nigeria, in the nation's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups vie for control of fertile lands.

The violence, though fractured across religious lines, often has more to do with local politics, economics and rights to grazing lands. The government of Plateau State, where Jos is the capital, is controlled by Christian politicians who have blocked Muslims from being legally recognized as citizens. That has locked many out of prized government jobs in a region where the tourism industry and tin mining have collapsed in the last decades.

## Pope urges courage for Catholics in China, Iraq

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—Iraqi Christians celebrated a somber Christmas in a Baghdad cathedral stained with dried blood, while Pope Benedict XVI exhorted Chinese Catholics to stay loyal despite restrictions on them in a holiday address laced with worry for the world's Christian minorities.

Saturday's grim news seemed to highlight the pope's concern for his flock's welfare.

In northern Nigeria, attacks on two churches by Muslim sect members claimed six lives, while bombings in central Nigeria, a region plagued by Christian-Muslim violence, killed 32 people, officials said.

Eleven people including a priest were injured by a bombing during Christmas Mass in a police chapel in the Philippines, which has the largest Catholic population in Asia. The attack took place on Jolo



Pope Benedict XVI delivers the "Urbi et Orbi" (to the City and to the World) message in St. Peter's square at the Vatican, Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010.

island, a stronghold of al-Qaida linked militants.

But joy seemed to prevail in Bethlehem, the West Bank town where Jesus was born, which bustled with its biggest crowd of Christian pilgrims in years.

The suffering of Christians around the world framed

much of the pontiff's traditional Christmas Day "Urbi et Orbi" message (Latin for "to the city and to the world"). Bundled up in an ermine-trimmed crimson cape against a chilly rain, he delivered his assessment of world suffering from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Panama president denies alleged phone tap request

**PANAMA CITY (AP)**—Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli on Saturday denied information from a leaked U.S. diplomatic cable suggesting he asked the United States to help install phone taps on his political opponents, but he acknowledged a request for help against criminals and organized crime figures. A leaked U.S. diplomatic cable from Aug. 22, 2009 quotes then-U.S. ambassador Barbara Stephenson as saying the newly elected conservative president asked for help with wiretaps soon after he took office on July 1. "He clearly made no distinction between legitimate security targets and political enemies," the cable states, adding Stephenson said "we will not be party to any effort to expand wiretaps to domestic political targets."

#### WAfricans threaten force in Ivory Coast; 14K flee

**ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)**—The man who refuses to leave Ivory Coast's presidency faced new threats to his grasp on power after regional leaders threatened to remove him by force if necessary. Meanwhile, the U.N.'s refugee agency said Saturday that at least 14,000 Ivorians

have fled the chaos of their homeland, trekking for days to reach safety in Liberia. Diplomatic pressure and sanctions have left Laurent Gbagbo increasingly isolated though he has been able to maintain his rule nearly a month after the disputed vote because of the loyalty of security forces and the military. Even that, though, may disappear if he runs out of money to pay them.

#### Dutch detain 12 Somalis on terror suspicions

**AMSTERDAM (AP)**—Dutch police have arrested 12 Somali men in the key port city of Rotterdam on suspicion of preparing a terrorist attack, the public prosecutor said Saturday. The men, aged 19 to 48, were detained Friday on a tip from the intelligence services that they were planning an attack shortly in the Netherlands. There was no immediate information on the alleged target, but Rotterdam is Europe's biggest port and a hub of maritime commerce, with huge oil and gas storage facilities and dozens of massive docks. European officials stepped up security around the holidays this year after a Nigerian man in 2009 left Amsterdam airport on Christmas Day and allegedly tried to blow up a plane over Detroit with explosives taped to his underwear.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Female bomber kills 45 at food center in Pakistan

**KHAR, Pakistan (AP)**—A burqa-clad female suicide bomber in Pakistan lobbed hand grenades, then detonated her explosive belt among a crowd at an aid center Saturday, killing at least 45 people. The bomber, dressed in the head-to-toe burqa robes that women commonly wear in Pakistan and Afghanistan, was challenged by police at a check point, officials said. She then charged toward a group of 300 people lined up outside the food aid distribution center in the town of Khar, tossing two hand grenades before blowing herself up, officials said. The crowd was made up of people who have fled conflicts elsewhere in the area.



# Focus

## TOWN PRESENTS WORST CASE FOR PUBLIC PENSION FUNDS: IT STOPPED SENDING CHECKS IN 2009

# Alabama town's failed pension is a warning

**PRICHARD, Ala.**—This struggling small city on the outskirts of Mobile was warned for years that if it did nothing, its pension fund would run out of money by 2009. Right on schedule, its fund ran dry.

Then Prichard did something that pension experts say they have never seen before: it stopped sending monthly pension checks to its 150 retired workers, breaking a state law requiring it to pay its promised retirement benefits in full.

Since then, Nettie Banks, 68, a retired Prichard police and fire dispatcher, has filed for bankruptcy. Alfred Arnold, a 66-year-old retired fire captain, has gone back to work as a shopping mall security guard to try to keep his house. Eddie Ragland, 59, a retired police captain, accepted help from colleagues, bake sales and collection jars after he was shot by a robber, leaving him badly wounded and unable to get to his new job as a police officer at the regional airport.

Far worse was the retired fire marshal who died in June. Like many of the others, he was too young to collect Social Security. "When they found him, he had no electricity and no running water in his house," said David Anders, 58, a retired district fire chief. "He was a proud enough man that he wouldn't accept help."

The situation in Prichard is extremely unusual—the city has sought bankruptcy protection twice—but it proves that the unthinkable can, in fact, sometimes happen. And it stands as a warning to cities like Philadelphia and states like Illinois, whose pension funds are under great strain: if nothing changes, the money eventually does run out, and when that happens, misery and turmoil follow.

It is not just the pensioners who suffer when a pension fund runs dry. If a city tried to follow the law and pay its pensioners with money from its annual operating budget, it would probably have to adopt large tax increases, or make huge service cuts, to come up with the money.

Current city workers could find themselves paying into a pension plan that will not be there for their own retirements. In Prichard, some older workers have delayed retiring, since they cannot afford to give up their paychecks if no pension checks will follow.

So the declining, little-known city of Prichard is now attracting the attention of bankruptcy lawyers, la-

bor leaders, municipal credit analysts and local officials from across the country. They want to see if the situation in Prichard, like the continuing bankruptcy of Vallejo, Calif., ultimately creates a legal precedent on whether distressed cities can legally cut or reduce their pensions, and if so, how.

that was a boom town until the 1960s. The city once had thriving department stores, two theaters and even a zoo. "You couldn't find a place to park in that city," recalled Kenneth G. Turner, a retired

bankruptcy in 1999, yielding to years of dwindling money, mismanagement and corruption. (A previous mayor was removed from office and found guilty of neglect of duty.) The city paid off its last creditors from the

checks owed to the retirees. The city stopped paying its pensions. And no one stepped in to enforce the law.

The retirees, who were not unionized, sued. The city tried to block their suit by declaring bankruptcy, but a judge denied the request. The city is appealing. The retirees filed another

they were promised, no retiree from a federally insured plan in the private sector has come away empty-handed since the federal pension law was enacted in 1974. The law does not cover public sector workers.

Last week several dozen retirees—one using a wheelchair, some with canes—attended the weekly City Council meeting, asking for something before Christmas. Mary Berg, 61, a former assistant city clerk whose mother was once the city's zookeeper, read them the names of 11 retirees who had died since the checks stopped coming.

"I hope that on Christmas morning, when you are with your families around your Christmas trees, that you remember that most of the retirees will not be opening presents with their families," she told them.



MEGGAN HALLER FOR NYT

"Prichard is the future," said Michael Aguirre, the former San Diego city attorney, who has called for San Diego to declare bankruptcy and restructure its own outsize pension obligations. "We're all on the same conveyor belt. Prichard is just a little further down the road."

Many cities and states are struggling to keep their pension plans adequately funded, with varying success. New York City plans to put \$8.3 billion into its pension fund next year, twice what it paid five years ago. Maryland is considering a proposal to raise the retirement age to 62 for all public workers with fewer than five years of service.

Illinois keeps borrowing money to invest in its pension funds, gambling that the funds' investments will earn enough to pay back the debt with interest. New Jersey simply decided not to pay the \$3.1 billion that was due its pension plan this year.

Colorado, Minnesota and South Dakota have all taken the unusual step of reducing the benefits they pay their current retirees by cutting cost-of-living increases; retirees in all three states are suing.

No state or city wants to wind up like Prichard.

Driving down Wilson Avenue here—a bleak stretch of shuttered storefronts, with pawn shops and beauty parlors that operate behind barred windows and signs warning of guard dogs—it is hard to see vestiges of the Prichard

paramedic whose grandfather pushed for the city's incorporation in 1925.

The city's rapid decline began in the 1970s. The growth of other suburbs, white flight and then middle-class flight all took their tolls, and the city's population shrank by 40 percent to about 27,000 today, from its peak of 45,000. As people left, the city's tax base dwindled.

Prichard's pension plan was established by state law during the good times, in 1956, to supplement Social Security. By the standard of other public pension plans, and the six-figure pensions that draw outrage in places like California and New Jersey, it is not especially rich. Its biggest pension came to about \$39,000 a year, for a retired fire chief with many years of service. The average retiree got around \$12,000 a year. But the plan allowed workers to retire young, in their 50s. And its benefits were sweetened over time by the state legislature, which did not pay for the added benefits.

For many years, the city—like many other cities and states today—knew that its pension plan was underfunded. As recently as 2004, the city hired an actuary, who reported that "the plan is projected to exhaust the assets around 2009, at which time benefits will need to be paid directly from the city's annual finances."

The city had already taken the unusual step of reducing pension benefits by 8.5 percent for current retirees, after it declared



MEGGAN HALLER FOR NYT

Last week, retirees asked the City Council for some help before Christmas.

bankruptcy in 2007. But its current mayor, Ronald K. Davis, never complied with an order from the bankruptcy court to begin paying \$16.5 million into the pension fund to reduce its shortfall.

A lawyer representing the city, R. Scott Williams, said that the city simply did not have the money. "The reality for Prichard is that if you took money to build the pension up, who's going to pay the garbage man?" he asked. "Who's going to pay to run the police department? Who's going to pay the bill for the street lights? There's only so much money to go around."

Workers paid 5.5 percent of their salaries into the pension fund, and the city paid 10.5 percent. But the fund paid out more money than it took in, and by September 2009 there was no longer enough left in the fund to send out the \$150,000 worth of monthly

suit, asking the city to pay at least some of the benefits they are owed. A mediation effort is expected to begin soon. Many retirees say they would accept reduced benefits.

Companies with pension plans are required by federal law to put money behind their promises years in advance, and the government can impose punitive taxes on those that fail to do so, or in some cases even seize their pension funds.

Companies are also required to protect their pension assets. So if a corporate pension fund falls below 60 cents' worth of assets for every dollar of benefits owed, workers can no longer accrue additional benefits. (Prichard was down to just 33 cents on the dollar in 2003.)

And if a company goes bankrupt, the federal government can take over its pension plan and see that its retirees receive their benefits. Although some retirees receive less than

The budget did not move forward. Mayor Davis was out of town.

"Merry Christmas!" shouted a man from the back row of the folding chairs. The retirees filed out. One woman could not hold back her tears.

After the meeting, Troy Ephriam, a council member who became chairman of the pension fund when it was nearly broke, sat in his office and recalled some of the failed efforts to put more money into the pension fund.

"I think the biggest disappointment I have is that there was not a strong enough effort to put something in there," he said. "And that's the reason that it's hard for me to look these people in the face: because I'm not certain we really gave our all to prevent this."

*Editor's Note: This article was originally published on December 22, 2010.*



# Health & Fitness

## US teen birth rate at all-time low, economy cited

By MIKE STOBBE  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—The U.S. teen birth rate in 2009 fell to its lowest point in almost 70 years of record-keeping—a decline that stunned experts who believe it's partly due to the recession.

The birth rate for teenagers fell to 39 births per 1,000 girls, ages 15 through 19, according to a government report released Tuesday. It was a 6 percent decline from the previous year, and the lowest since health officials started tracking the rate in 1940.

Experts say the recent recession—from December 2007 to June 2009—was a major factor driving down births overall, and there's good reason to think it affected would-be teen mothers.

"I'm not suggesting that teens are examining futures of 401(k)s or how the market

is doing," said Sarah Brown, chief executive of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

"But I think they are living in families that experience that stress. They are living next door to families that lost their jobs. ... The recession has touched us all," Brown said.

Teenage moms, who account for about 10 percent of the nation's births, are not unique. The total number of births also has been dropping, as have birth rates among all women except those 40 and older.

For comparison look to the peak year of teen births—1957. There were about 96 births per 1,000 teen girls that year, but it was a different era, when women married younger, said Stephanie Ventura, a co-author of the report issued by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC births report is based on a review of

most birth certificates for 2009.

Overall, about 4.1 million babies were born in 2009, down almost 3 percent from 2008. It's the second consecutive drop in births, which had been on the rise since 2000.

The trend may continue: A preliminary count of U.S. births through the first six months of this year suggests a continuing drop, CDC officials said.

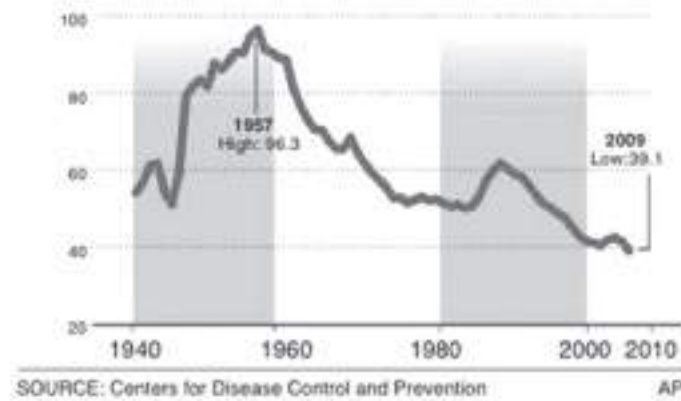
A decline in immigration to the United States, blamed on the weak job market, is another factor cited for the lower birth rate. A large proportion of immigrants are Hispanic, and Hispanics accounted for nearly 1 in 4 births in 2009. The birth rate among Hispanic teens is the highest of any ethnic group with 70 births per 1,000 girls in 2009. However, that rate, too, was down from the previous year.

Other findings in the new report include:

■ The cesarean delivery rate

### Teen birth rate hits 70-year low

The birth rate last year for U.S. girls ages 15 to 19 was the lowest since the government began tracking the statistic in 1940. The recent sharp drop is attributed to the recession. The number of births per 1,000 teenage girls



rose yet again, to about 33 percent of births. The C-section rate has been rising every year since 1996.

■ The pre-term birth rate, for infants delivered at less than 37 weeks of pregnancy, dropped for the third straight year to about 12 percent of all births. It had been generally increasing since the early 1980s.

■ Birth rates were down from 2008 in almost every age group of women of childbearing. The birth rate for women in their early 20s plummeted 7 percent, the largest decline for that age group since 1973.

The one exception was women older than 40—a group that may be more concerned with declining fertility than the economy. The birth rate for women ages 40-44 was up 3 percent from 2008, to about 10 births per 1,000 women. That's the highest rate for that group since 1967.

The drop in birth rates was less pronounced in women in their 30s than women in their 20s, noted Carol Hogue, an Emory University professor of maternal and child health and epidemiology.

"If women feel they are up

against a biological clock, that is a counterbalance to 'I can't afford to have a baby right now,'" she said.

CDC officials said the most striking change was the decline among teens, and some experts credited popular culture as playing a role. The issue of teen pregnancy got a lot of attention through Bristol Palin, the unmarried daughter of former GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. Bristol Palin had a baby boy in December 2008. Teen pregnancy is also cast in a harsh light by "16 and Pregnant," a popular MTV reality show which first aired in 2009 and chronicles the difficulties teen moms face.

Gabriela Briela, 17, a high school senior in Chicago, believes TV shows like that one are a big factor. She also credits sex education that goes beyond abstinence and advises birth control for teens who have sex.

Briela recalled one of her eighth grade teachers telling students to write down how they would tell their parents if they became pregnant.

"It's something that I still keep with me. It forced you to really ponder that thought" and think about the consequences, she said.

## Abbott recalls millions of diabetes testing strips

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that Abbott Laboratories is recalling up to 359 million testing strips used by diabetics because they can give falsely low blood sugar readings.

The testing strips are used to help diabetes patients check their blood sugar levels. But the FDA says the products being re-

called by Abbott can give inaccurately low measurements. As a result, patients may try to raise their blood sugar levels unnecessarily or fail to detect dangerously high blood sugar levels.

The FDA said the problems are caused by a defect that limits the amount of blood absorbed by each strip.

North Chicago-based Abbott is recalling 359 lots mar-

keted under a half-dozen brand names, including: Precision Xceed Pro, Precision Xtra, Medisense Optium, Optium, OptiumEZ and ReliOn Ultima.

Abbott said ReliOn Ultima test strips are used with the ReliOn Ultima blood glucose monitoring system and that system is not being recalled.

Abbott said it will replace the affected test strips at no charge.

## Alternative medicines sometimes dangerous for kids

LONDON (AP)—Giving alternative treatments such as homeopathic remedies instead of conventional medicines to children may have deadly side effects in rare instances, a new analysis says.

Australian researchers monitored reports from pediatricians in Australia from 2001 to 2003 looking for suspected side effects from alternative medicines like herbal treatments, vitamin supplements or naturopathic pills. They found 39 reports of side effects including four deaths.

The study was published online Thursday in the journal Archives of Disease in Childhood, a specialist publication of the medical journal BMJ.

Unlike conventional medicines, whose side effects are tracked by national surveillance systems, there are no such systems in place for al-

ternative therapies.

In the study, researchers found infants to children aged 16 were affected by complementary medicines and that in nearly 65 percent of the cases, side effects were classified as severe, life-threatening, or fatal. In 44 percent of cases, pediatricians believed their patient had been harmed by a failure to use conventional medicines.

"We have known for a long time that alternative medicines can put patients at risk," said Edzard Ernst, a professor of complementary medicine at Peninsula Medical School in Exeter, England. He was not linked to the study.

"Perhaps the most serious harm occurs when effective therapies are replaced by ineffective alternative therapies," he said. "In that situation, even an intrinsically harmless medicine, like a homeopathic

medicine, can be life-threatening," Ernst said.

Alissa Lim of the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne and colleagues wrote that all four deaths they identified were caused by a decision to use alternative therapies instead of conventional medicines.

They described one case of a 10-month-old baby who had severe septic shock after being given naturopathic medicines and was assigned to a special diet to treat eczema. In another case, an infant who suffered multiple seizures and a heart attack died after being given alternative therapies - which the parents had chosen due to their concerns about the side effects of regular medicines.

Ernst said people should recognize the limitations of alternative medicines and that practitioners should be careful not to oversell their benefits.

### Personal Trainer

## Taking a power nap for fatigue

When you're tired, a 10-minute nap improves performance better than a shorter or a longer sleep, according to new Australian research.

- Participants took a series of performance tests, then were allowed to sleep for 5, 10, 20 or 30 minutes
- Their performance level was then retested over the next 3 hours

### Results

- After a 20- or 30-minute nap, the participants reported feeling groggy, and their performance was impaired for as much as 30 minutes

- Performance did not improve significantly after a 5-minute nap

- People who took 10-minute naps had improved performance and felt most alert

### Possible reason

During a long nap, you sink into lower levels of sleep, then wake up feeling groggy; "sleep inertia" can last an hour or two

During a 10-minute nap, the nervous system sleeps lightly and doesn't go into sleep inertia

For some unknown reason, the process of falling asleep itself, even if it's followed by only a brief nap, has significant benefit



## Life & Style

# Lichtenstein, Warhol works stolen from NY home



This undated photo provided by the New York City Police Department shows Roy Lichtenstein's "Thinking Nude." AP

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Authorities are ramping up their effort to solve a Manhattan mystery: Who drilled a hole into the home of a beef fortune heir and stole a collection of iconic artworks by Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol? The culprits also made off with surveillance video footage that might have caught them in the act.

The New York Police Department released images of the art on Thursday, hoping someone might help solve last month's crime in the trendy Meatpack-

ing District by recognizing works like a well-known Lichtenstein print called "Thinking Nude."

Authorities estimate the five-story apartment was burglarized sometime during Thanksgiving week, when owner and art collector Robert Romanoff was away.

Calls to Romanoff's home went unanswered Friday.

Also taken from the building was a Lichtenstein print called "Moon-scape," the Carl Fudge oil painting

"Live Cat," the Warhol prints "The Truck" and "Superman," and a set of eight signed Warhol prints from 1986 called "Camouflage." They're among the artist's last works before his death the following year.

Authorities estimate the artworks, plus stolen Cartier and Rolex watches and other jewelry, are worth about \$750,000.

The Romanoff home is in a neighborhood filled with old warehouses and meatpacking companies now turned

into retail and living space, restaurants and boutiques.

Police say the thief drilled a hole through the wall of a hallway sometime between Nov. 24 and 28.

Lichtenstein, who died in 1997, created "Thinking Nude" in 1994—one of 40 limited-edition works that are part of his "Nudes" series based on comic-book illustrations. A similar print recently sold for about \$85,000 at Christie's, according to the auction house's website.

Warhol's "Superman" print is part

of his 1980s "Myths" series featuring fictional characters with mass-cultural appeal, including Mickey Mouse and Uncle Sam.

Romanoff is heir to a beef company fortune that started as a New York City meat store opened by his immigrant relatives in 1905. He's now president of the New Jersey-based Nebraska Meat Corp., one of the country's biggest distributors of smoked meat that for years owned property in the Meatpacking District.

## Ohio museum to move 10,000-year-old mastodon

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)**—A giant, skeletal rear end is one of the first things to greet visitors at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus.

So museum workers are going to move the 10,000-year-old mastodon a few feet (meters) to showcase his better features.

"We want to get him so that from all angles, except for up against the wall, you see a side view or a front view," says Bob Glotzhober, who's in charge of moving the mastodon early next month.

That means popping off about a ton of delicate bones like Legos and putting them back together, all while visitors gawk at the action.

The 10-foot (3-meter)-tall mastodon, Conway, named after the man who unearthed him, has gotten around since it was found in 1887.

Horse-drawn carriages once carted the remains around to county fairs in Ohio. It last moved in 1993 during renovations at the historical society.

Conway has even traveled to Facebook, where a photo shows him covered in shaggy brown fur and wearing a Santa hat.

"A visitor asked if I was a dinosaur the other day," his persona recently posted. "(Dinosaur, indeed!) I politely told him that mastodons were mammals, a distant relative of modern elephants."

Now, Glotzhober, one of a half dozen or so people who will handle the prehistoric bones with his bare hands, is using photographs from 17 years ago to try to recreate the last move's success.

Workers will extract fiberglass replicas of Conway's tusks before removing the rest of his head. Then, it's time to tackle his legs, thick as tree trunks and frozen midstep.

"If you're pulling and you twist it, it could break some of the bone," Glotzhober says, pointing to the mastodon's limbs.

The mastodon movers will jack up a platform supporting Conway's ribcage like mechanics hoisting up a car to inspect its underbelly. They'll slide the skeleton over several feet (meters) and try to reattach the rest of the bones on a more flattering angle.

Conway's behind wasn't always leading the welcome wagon at the historical society. Visitors used to wander down a staircase to meet a triumphant skeleton, tusks raised high in all his prehistoric glory.

But now, in the era of handicapped-accessible entrances, the second-story entryway has gone the way of many of the museum's inhabitants.

"We've had people complain about seeing his backside. As they come walking into the museum, it's the first thing that greets people," Glotzhober said.

## NYC subway service ads replace poetry, literature

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Not long ago, a subway rider who'd had a particularly tough day at work found herself staring up at the ads inside her subway car, where one of the placards featured a poignant literary quote.

It was from a 15th-century Turkish poet, Mihri Khatun, and it "turned my day around," the rider later said in an e-mail. "Within me, the heart has taken fire like a candle/ My body, whirling, is a lighthouse illuminated by your image," the poet wrote.

Commuters like her have been able to catch relief during grueling rides by reading poetry and inspired literature among all the ads. But the train has screeched to a stop.

Transit officials have replaced the words of Franz Kafka, Galileo and other great thinkers—a program called Train of Thought—with service announcements about the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's improved new technology, equipment and infrastructure.

The agency that runs city subways and public buses "needs to communicate with our customers about what we've done in the past year to improve the system," said MTA spokesman Jeremy Soffin.

In the past few weeks, the slogan "Improving, Nonstop" has displaced the Train of Thought quotes sprinkled

amid private advertising for impotence treatments and law firms chasing accident victims.

Riders are mourning the loss of the campaign that provided a brief escape into literature.

"Every time we eliminate the arts, which speak to our souls, we're creating chaos, because words were put on this planet to make us think," said jazz percussionist Edson Silva, waiting for a No. 1 train on Manhattan's Upper West Side a few days before Christmas.

The 2-year-old literary campaign was an expansion of the very popular Poetry In Motion—famed verses that filled thousands of subway cars from 1992 to 2008.

The MTA once described that program as "a way of delivering a bit of joy and enlightenment along with the ride."

These days, the state-run agency has more pressing, nonliterary concerns.

Having filled a \$900 million budget gap for the year, with "essentially no money for advertising," the spokesman said, the MTA is using its limited subway and bus space to inform riders "of what we've been doing."

Transit improvements include countdown clocks above station platforms that show how many minutes are left until the next train arrives; new security cameras; and special lanes on city

streets dedicated to buses.

"I don't begrudge them wanting to put their best foot forward," said Gene Russianoff, staff attorney for the Straphangers Campaign rider advocacy group. "But if this new campaign comes at the price of permanently kiboshing the literature, I think that's a mistake."

He acknowledged the MTA could benefit from a campaign to improve its image, particularly after a difficult year in which the agency severely cut service, eliminating some subway lines entirely, and passed another fare hike—by 25 cents to \$2.50 for a single-ride ticket. None of the new service ads mention the third fare hike in as many years, taking effect Dec. 30.

Hundreds of station clerks, maintenance workers and cleaners also lost their jobs.

Soffin, the MTA spokesman, said the few literary placards remaining on subways are being removed. The authority has not renewed an agreement with its Train of Thought sponsor, the TV quiz show "Jeopardy!"

For a contribution of \$50,000 a year, mostly for printing costs, the MTA churned out the placards with ideas from writers, historians, scientists, politicians—and just about anyone who could spice up riders' time on public wheels.



Bob Glotzhober, senior curator of natural history at the Ohio Historical Society, inspects the Conway mastodon exhibit Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010, in Columbus, Ohio.



# Britain's queen delivers annual Christmas message

**LONDON** (AP)—Britain's Queen Elizabeth II championed the role of sports in building communities Saturday in her annual Christmas message to the nation, crediting athletics with teaching valuable social skills and providing a different perspective on life.

The queen's remarks come at a controversial moment in British sporting history. The

government recently was criticized for plans to cut funding to a school sports program. It partly rescinded the decision after an outcry from athletes and educators. Britain is also preparing to host the 2012 Olympics in London.

"In the parks of towns and cities, and on village greens up and down the country, countless thousands of people every week

give up their time to participate in sport and exercise of all sorts, or simply encourage others to do so," the 84-year-old monarch said in the prerecorded address.

The queen said that a wealth of sporting events this year—from the World Cup to the Commonwealth Games—have shown how the benefits of sports go beyond improving

physical fitness to play a key role in bringing together people from all backgrounds, ages and walks of life. "No team can hope to succeed without cooperation between the players," she said, noting that athletes must also respect their opponents. "This sort of positive team spirit can benefit communities, companies and enterprises of all kinds."

As she spoke, the television broadcast showed footage of princes William and Harry playing soccer with African orphans in Lesotho, illustrating the royal family's long and documented affinity for athletics.

The queen enjoys riding horses on her Windsor estate, and many members of her family are keen amateur athletes.

Her husband, Prince Philip, his son prince Charles and Charles' sons William and Harry have all played polo.

Granddaughter Zara Phillips is a world champion equestrian, and recently announced her engagement to professional rugby player Mike Tindall. Zara's mother Princess Anne was also on the national equestrian team.



A young boy is encouraged to give Britain's Queen Elizabeth II a flower as she leaves after attending the British royal family's traditional Christmas Day church service in Sandringham, England, Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010.

## Lohan spat brings scrutiny to Betty Ford

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Lindsay Lohan isn't the only one authorities are investigating over a late night spat with a rehabilitation worker. Experts say the facility where she is being treated and its former employee will also receive some scrutiny.

A spokesman for the California Department of Public Health confirmed the agency was conducting an investigation at Betty Ford, but declined to release details. Spokesman Ralph Montano said Wednesday that details may be released later, but he could not confirm that the inquiry was related to Lohan or an interview by the fired employee.

Detectives are investigating Lohan for misdemeanor battery at the request of a Betty Ford Clinic worker who was involved in a fight with the "Mean Girls" star shortly around 1 a.m. on Dec. 12.

Lohan's attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, has declined comment on the incident, but said it was the actress who

called police.

The worker later conducted an on-camera interview with celebrity website TMZ, which also posted an e-mail the worker apparently sent to supervisors after the fight. The woman, identified by TMZ as Dawn Holland, was promptly fired by Betty Ford.

Criminal defense attorney Steve Cron, who is not involved in the case, said both Betty Ford and Holland are likely to face some repercussions. Betty Ford, which described the Lohan incident as the first time in 28 years that it had a breach of patient confidentiality, could face a civil fine, he said.

"I don't see any criminal prosecution, but I do see some investigation to see whether this is a systemic problem or just an isolated incident with one wayward employee," Cron said.

A Betty Ford spokesman declined comment on whether the renowned rehabilitation center reported the incident to

state or federal authorities.

There is both a historical expectation and legal requirements for confidentiality in rehabilitation settings, said Dr. Westley Clark of the Maryland-based Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

"We want people to be able to get care, to be as candid as possible," Clark said, adding that he couldn't specifically speak about the Lohan incident.

Safeguarding celebrities' medical records has been an issue in California, with health care workers prosecuted and disciplined for peering into — and selling — confidential information.

In 2008, it was revealed that 1,041 patients had their records inappropriately accessed at UCLA medical facilities since 2003, resulting in 165 hospital employees being either fired, suspended or receiving reprimands. A former Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center employee pleaded guilty that year to

selling the medical records of Britney Spears, Farrah Fawcett and other celebrities to the National Enquirer. She died before sentencing.

Both Clark and Cron said there is an exemption to confidentiality guidelines when a rehabilitation worker reports a crime. The exemption does not extend to revealing details to the media, they said.

Cron said he thought the Betty Ford employee clearly violated federal laws, and may have actually aided Lohan from being punished by a Los Angeles judge overseeing her probation for a 3-year-old drunken driving case.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elden Fox had warned Lohan to remain out of trouble and not refuse any drug tests when he ordered the actress to remain at Betty Ford until Jan. 3. If the judge suspects she violated her probation, he could convene a hearing where Holland would likely be called to testify about the incident.

## US museum to return German item stolen in WWII

**TOLEDO, Ohio** (AP)—A museum in Ohio is returning to Germany an 18th-century porcelain centerpiece believed to have been stolen from a castle where it was hidden by a museum during World War II.

The Toledo Museum of Art and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Thursday that "Nereid Sweetmeat Stand" will go back to the Dresden Museum. Customs officials said in a statement that the German museum was permanently loaned the piece in 1920 by the family of the former prime minister of Saxony, and that ownership rests with his heirs.

It depicts a mermaid holding a shell and was part of a 2,200-piece Swan Service service dinner set for 100 commissioned in 1737 for Count Heinrich von Bruehl, the prime minister.

The Nereid stand is part of the service's centerpiece arrangement and considered a masterpiece of the collection, the customs agency said.

"There are pieces from the Swan Service all over the world, but this is a centerpiece and one of the showiest pieces of the collection," Toledo museum spokeswoman Kelly Gar-

row told The (Toledo) Blade.

The authenticity of the piece was confirmed about three weeks ago when five firing cracks in the porcelain were found to match photographs of the cracks in the centerpiece that was at the Dresden museum in the 1930s.

This is the first time the Toledo museum has had to return artwork that was discovered to be stolen, Director Brian Kennedy told The Blade.

Customs officials said the stand was purchased from a European art dealer in 1955 and imported into the U.S. The museum purchased the item the following year from the Rosenberg & Stiebel gallery in New York, now called Stiebel Ltd.

Garrow said the piece was purchased for less than \$10,000 at the time and the museum had been unaware it was stolen. She said the German government filed a claim for the piece this summer.

"The object made its way into the legitimate art market, it went to a very legitimate dealer, and it made it to a very legitimate museum," Garrow said. "And for over 50 years nobody said anything."

Kennedy said the museum is discussing possible com-



In this undated photo released by the Toledo Museum of Art, "Nereid Sweetmeat Stand" is shown.

pensation for the artwork with the Stiebel gallery. A woman answering the phone at Stiebel said no one was available to comment on Friday.

The museum estimates the piece's current value at \$300,000. Customs officials said it is worth more than \$1 million.

The piece will remain on display in Toledo until a January repatriation ceremony at the museum, which is to include representatives of the Dresden museum. Garrow said the German museum has offered to temporarily loan Toledo some of its artwork as a goodwill gesture.

## Lynch promises prime 'hissy fit' in new episode

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Actress Jane Lynch says her "Glee" character Sue Sylvester throws "a hissy fit the likes of which no one has seen before" when the show returns.

The Fox hit is on hiatus until a special post-Super Bowl episode on Feb. 6 that features guest shots from Gwyneth Paltrow and Katie Couric, and the students offering their version of Michael Jackson's "Thriller," she said.

"It's got so much firepower," the Emmy-winning actress said. "There is so much going on in the show that is crazy and funny and wild. I have a hissy fit the likes of which no one has seen before, where I try to destroy the locker room and principal's office. I try to shoot one of my cheerleaders from a cannon."

Lynch talked about her show

Thursday while promoting another project: an educational campaign on teenage mobile phone misuse that she is doing for LG Mobile Phones. She does a series of short videos about texting while driving, sexting, cyberbullying and other misuses of mobile phones by teenagers. The vignettes are available on YouTube and the company's website.

The videos are aimed at parents to get them talking with their children about these problems, and show parents how to set ground rules. Younger viewers familiar with Lynch's stern, slightly off-center depiction of Sylvester would likely enjoy them, too.



Lynch

Before being called by IG, Lynch acknowledged being guilty of one of the habits she's being paid to discourage: She used to text while driving around California.

"I knew I should not be doing it," she said. "It was really just the luck of the Irish that kept me from hurting myself or somebody else."

Now she follows LG's advice to put the phone in the car's glove compartment. If she wants to talk or text, she'll pull over to the side of the road.

Out of the car, Lynch did receive a text message this week from one 81-year-old fan.

"Hi there!" her mom wrote. "I'm texting!"

## New Mexico lands Marvel Studios' super hero movie

**SANTA FE, New Mexico** (AP)—New Mexico has landed what Gov. Bill Richardson's office is billing as the largest movie production in state history.

Richardson and Marvel Studios' co-president Louis D'Esposito announced this week that the comic book-based adventure film "The Avengers" will be

shot primarily in New Mexico.

The film is expected to employ hundreds of New Mexico-based cast and crew, and use hundreds of local service and supply vendors.

Its all-star cast includes Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner and Mark Ruffalo.

The governor's office says preproduction is already under way. Principal photography is scheduled to run from April through September.

Richardson says the announcement is a good example of the job creation, economic impact and visibility the movie industry has brought to the state.



# Spider-Man actor walking again after back surgery

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The stunt actor who fell 30 feet while playing Spider-Man on Broadway is walking again, and his father said Saturday that he can't wait to return to the role despite injuries that have him confined to the intensive care unit.

Christopher Tierney walked Friday for the first time since

his fall during Monday's performance of "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" and is spending Christmas with his mother and brother in the hospital while recovering from back surgery, Tim Tierney told The Associated Press.

Julie Taymor, the director and co-writer of the \$65 million pro-

duction, visited the injured actor in the hospital on Christmas Eve, Tierney said. The show—the most expensive ever on Broadway—has been plagued by technical glitches, money woes and three other injuries, including a concussion and two broken wrists.

"They're eagerly awaiting his return," the actor's father said from his home in Portsmouth, N.H. "He just felt so blessed to be part of this whole creative process, and he just cannot wait to get back and perform in the show."

Tim Tierney said he believes

his son will regain close to full mobility after recovering from a roster of injuries that included a hairline skull fracture, four broken ribs, a bruised lung, internal bleeding and cracks in three lumbar vertebrae.

Christopher Tierney will remain in the intensive care unit until at least Monday, then stay in New York City for rehabilitation.

As for when a return to the show might be possible, Tim Tierney said he was more positive than his son's doctors, who did not give a specific time frame for recovery.

## Bristol Palin buys home in Arizona for \$172,000

**MARICOPA, Ariz. (AP)**—Bristol Palin has bought a five-bedroom home in Pinal County south of Phoenix.

Paperwork shows the recent "Dancing With the Stars" diva and daughter of Sarah Palin is the sole purchaser of the house in the town of Maricopa. She bought it for \$172,000 from a North Dakota couple.

It's not clear if Bristol Palin will be a seasonal visitor or permanent resident at the home, in a development called Cobblestone Farms.

According to real estate websites, the residence is a two-level, brown stucco house with a tile roof, a landscaped front and back yard, and access to a community pool.

The Arizona Republic reports

the 3,900-square-foot home was built in 2006 and was bought for a little under \$330,000 at the time. It has 2 1/2 baths and a three-car garage.

Bristol Palin, 20, closed on the home in early December, buying it from Michael and Cynthia Smith, according to paperwork filed with the Pinal County Recorder's Office.

"I'm not sure why she wanted to buy that home, but we are real happy for her," Michael Smith told The Republic.

Bristol Palin came to the forefront during her mother's 2008 vice presidential run when the Palin family announced that the then-17-year-old was pregnant.

Following the birth of her son, Bristol Palin spoke out as a teen pregnancy prevention advocate.



### ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

#### Filmmaker Perry to rebuild woman's burned home

**ATLANTA (AP)**—Entertainment mogul Tyler Perry is offering to rebuild the home of an 88-year-old great-grandmother who lost all her belongings in a fire. Rosa Lee Ransby and her 4-year-old great-granddaughter escaped the fire Tuesday that destroyed her home of 40 years in Coweta County, southwest of Atlanta. Coweta County firefighters began soliciting donations, and calls flooded in. The Atlanta-based filmmaker visited Ransby's neighborhood Thursday and pledged to rent her a house for a year, pay for her utilities, buy her furniture and then build her a new home. Coweta Fire Chief Todd Moore said Perry's decision "made my Christmas."

#### Santa braves sardines, tear gas on Christmas trip

It's been a busy, busy day today for the plump man in red with wire glasses and a bushy white beard. From Thailand to Peru, Bethlehem to the West Bank, Santa's been making his way around the globe delivering Christmas cheer—and a few tears—to people big and small. Among his stops, Santa swam with sardines in Seoul, dressed up as an elephant in Ayutthaya, Thailand, and made a 2-year-old cry in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Outside Ramallah, a Palestinian protester donning a Santa Claus costume dodged tear gas while schoolchildren in Lebanon dressed up in the bright red Santa garb to celebrate their last day of school. (AP)

#### 'Law & Order: SVU' star's manager accused of fraud

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A star of the TV series "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" is getting her own taste of law and order—in real life. New York City prosecutors say Tamara Tunie was swindled of more than \$1 million by her business manager. Tunie plays medical examiner Melinda Warner on the NBC show. According to court papers, Joseph Cilibrasi and his accounting firm started stealing from Tunie in 2002, listing himself as her husband to secure a credit card tied to her account. He is also accused of writing checks to himself. The 50-year-old Manhattan man pleaded not guilty earlier this week and is being held on \$100,000 bail. Cilibrasi's attorney says Tunie was "fully aware" of the transactions and he'll fight the charges. He faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

## Outspoken brother's remarks weigh heavily on his sisters

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** After having been out of the U.S. for many years, I noticed upon returning that people here seem to be much fatter. I went to a family gathering, and virtually every formerly slim member of my family had also gotten bigger.

I quietly mentioned it to one of my sisters, and word got around that I had "no manners." My other sister, "Niki," who has a degree in psychology, told me in no uncertain terms that people never talk about such things with each other.

I explained to her that mentioning it once, or discussing the ballooning of America, can be appropriate. I believe our country has fattened up because of a lazy attitude toward exercise and calories. Niki vehemently opposes my discussing it.

I learned later that she neglected to invite me to her son's wedding for fear I would say something about you-know-what to her in-laws. I admit, I don't have a silver tongue—but I'm disappointed my favorite psychologist has blackballed me and cut off communication. It's sad to lose a sister this way. Please advise, Abby.

BROTHER BLACK SHEEP

**DEAR BROTHER BLACK SHEEP:** Why do I think there's more to this story than you have written? Obesity has become an epidemic in this country, and the reasons for it are more complicated than a lazy attitude.

You don't need a "silver tongue" to apologize to your sisters for having offended them. Perhaps your "favorite psychologist" would have invited you to her son's wedding if you had been willing to apologize.

People who have weight issues know they are fat. They don't need to debate it. And they don't need you to remind them or imply they are lazy.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 45-year-old male reader. I have been friends with "Oscar" for 20 years. He asked me to be the godparent of his new baby girl. As you can imagine, I was overwhelmed when he asked. I have never been a godparent. We discussed it at length, and I told him I needed to think it over to be sure of my decision.

After a few days I was still indecisive. Part of me wanted to do it and part of me didn't. I told Oscar it was an honor, but that I felt unsure and not fully committed. I knew if I were to accept and then reconsider, it wouldn't be cool. So I bowed out to give him time to find someone else.

Oscar's reaction told me he was deeply angry and hurt. That night I hardly slept. I kept thinking how much I had disappointed my friend, his wife and their entire family. I feel terribly guilty. It's clear that Oscar was expecting me to say yes. Is it wrong to say no when someone asks you to be a godparent?

TRUE FRIEND IN WISCONSIN

**DEAR TRUE FRIEND:** No, it's not wrong if the person who is asked does not feel able to fulfill the obligations that go with that honor. Your friend may feel less hurt if you explain to him your reasons for not accepting and the fact that you wouldn't want to agree if you couldn't do everything that would be expected of you. Saying no sometimes requires tact, but I'll give you credit for being honest about your feelings.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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AP

A theater worker cleans a showcard frame for "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" outside the theater, in New York, Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010.

## Ryan Reynolds, Scarlett Johansson file for divorce

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Ryan Reynolds and Scarlett Johansson have made their breakup official by filing for divorce in Los Angeles.

Court records show the actors each filed divorce paperwork Thursday, citing irreconcilable differences.

The pair announced the breakup on Dec. 14, the same date they listed in court filings as their separation date.

The 26-year-old actress and

34-year-old actor were married in September 2008. The couple kept their courtship and nuptials private, releasing few details about their wedding and rarely appearing in public together.



Johansson



Reynolds

Johansson's recent credits include "Iron Man 2" and "He's Just Not That Into You."

Reynolds appeared opposite Sandra Bullock in "The Proposal" and stars in "Green Lantern," set for release next year.

## UK: Royal Christmas without Prince William

**LONDON (AP)**—Queen Elizabeth II and her family are gathering at Sandringham Estate to exchange gifts on Christmas Eve without Prince William, who's on military duty.

The royals' Christmas will include a Christmas Day church service as the estate, 110 miles north of London, followed by a gala meal and the broadcast of the Queen's Christmas message.

William and his fiancée Kate

Middleton won't be there because William is on Royal Air Force duty in Wales. The couple plan to wed in April.

Buckingham Palace says Prince Harry isn't on military assignment and is expected to be with the family at Sandringham.

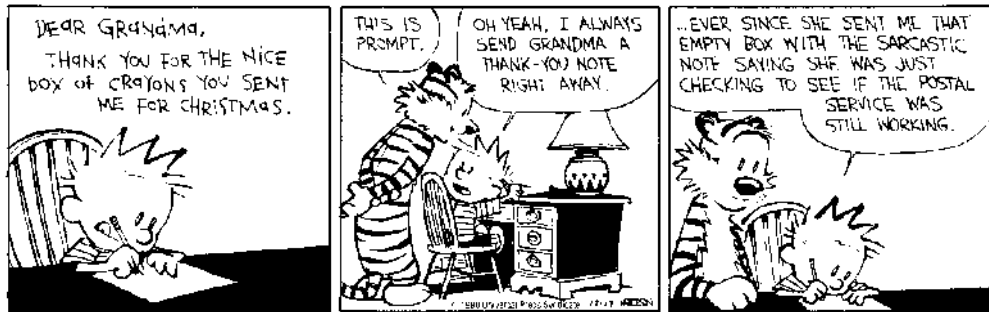
The royal Christmas schedule is usually private except for the church service, which typically draws locals hoping for a glimpse of the queen and her family.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

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1 Past named  
4 Talked X-ratedly? for an  
9 Dine Indian  
12 Charged city  
13 Playful what  
14 Id counter- unfriendly  
15 Babysit, e.g. of post-  
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animal 49 Resembled, as  
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19 Collie of parent  
film and TV  
21 Corn bit 54 Golf prop  
24 Old 55 Circle the  
portico earth  
25 Colum- 56 United  
bus sch. 57 That girl  
26 New- 58 Horse-  
corner to man's  
society handful

**DOWN**

1 Have a bug  
2 Stickum  
3 Yoko of music  
4 Climbed  
5 Brunch  
6 Make entree  
7 Stagger  
8 Mistakes  
9 Cares for  
10 Wrinkly  
11 Jab  
16 Barbic's friend  
20 Couch  
21 Keystone  
22 Birthright  
23 Chases  
27 Feathery  
29 Tittle  
30 Yuletide  
32 Rani's wrap  
34 Jack-o'-  
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**Solution time: 24 mins.**

**Saturday's answer 12-27**

1 COTTON 2 PAST 3 YOKO 4 TALKED 5 RATEDLY 6 DINE 7 ANTLERED 8 SPRITE 9 COLLIE 10 FILM 11 TV 12 CORN 13 BIT 14 OLD 15 PORTICO 16 COLUMBUS 17 SCHOOL 18 NEW-CORNER 19 SOCIETY 20 ATTACH 21 SKILLETS 22 BRIBE 23 MOLECULE 24 PART 25 SONTAG 26 SARANDON 27 ARCTIC 28 BIRD 29 GREEK 30 VOWEL 31 WAR 32 GOD

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Hayley Williams, 22; Gerard Depardieu, 62; Cokie Roberts, 67; John Amos, 71

**Happy Birthday:** You've got everything going for you as long as you don't overspend during the first half of the year. After that, it's smooth sailing with lots of opportunities. Your drive and ambition will dominate and invite opposition—but nothing you cannot handle. This is a time for learning and applying what you know. Your numbers are 2, 5, 16, 20, 26, 37, 44

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Being realistic and setting reasonable goals will take the edge off the stress you are feeling. Anger will only lead to frustration. Patience will be your savior. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Conversations will be revealing. Do something nice for someone you love. A work-related project needs to be finished before the end of the year. Make changes that give you more time or space to maneuver. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Discipline will be required. Giving in to someone trying to bully you won't help your emotional well-being. Do what suits you best. Take a quick look at personal papers that need to be signed or put in the mail before the year comes to a close. \*\*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Being at home may make you feel safe but it isn't going to protect you from an emotional issue. Focus on the bright side of life, not the dark. If you are fun to be with, it will be difficult

for anyone to become angry with you. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Get together with peers, friends or neighbors. The information you discover will help you make a decision regarding travel, a move or what additional skills you need to get ahead. One of your colleagues may be jealous of you. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Refuse to let the past or your responsibilities stop you from enjoying friends, family or an activity or event you want to attend. Expect someone to throw a wrench in your plans. Be prepared to make last-minute adjustments. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Sticking around home will leave you open to disgruntled individuals who just want to complain. You can have a far better time if you shop, go to the spa or gym or get involved in a challenging activity. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Appreciation, good will and helping others will change the way you think and do things in the new year. Looking at your past will help you see what needs to be done in the future. Take caution in conversation and while traveling. \*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Watch how you handle people. A change of plans may not suit you but arguing won't help. Unexpected events will develop that will influence the way you feel and will affect your emotional well-being. Keep your thoughts to yourself. \*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Just because someone expects you to make

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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changes doesn't mean you have to do so. Consider every angle of a situation you face and do what's best for you and the ones you love. Take care of a problem caused by someone from your past. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take a serious look at your financial situation and structure a new, attainable budget for the new year. Talk over your plans with someone who will be affected by your decisions. Discipline and hard work will pay off. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Follow your heart. You may have to walk away if someone doesn't like your plans for the future. There is money to be made but a move may be required. Hard decisions will be emotionally draining, but necessary. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are vigilant, precise and patient. You are strict and demanding. You hide your emotions but feel deeply about things. You are insightful and a natural leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3		5			9			6
		8	6	4		3		
	7						2	8
2				1			7	
	3						6	
	4			8				5
1	9						3	
		3		9	4	7		
7			3			5		4

Difficulty Level ★

12/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	1	6	3	8	5	7	2
5	2	3	9	1	7	4	6	8
6	7	8	4	2	5	9	1	3
7	5	9	8	4	2	6	3	1
8	1	6	7	5	3	2	4	9
4	3	2	1	9	6	7	8	5
3	9	4	5	6	1	8	2	7
1	6	7	2	8	9	3	5	4
2	8	5	3	7	4	1	9	6

Difficulty Level \*\*\*\*

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID  
QUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE PUNIC WARS

Solution: 8 letters

E	F	C	A	R	T	H	A	G	I	N	I	A	N	S
R	L	C	M	U	T	N	E	G	I	R	G	A	I	A
E	T	R	A	D	E	T	A	T	S	E	C	L	R	
P	E	G	W	E	N	N	R	U	B	N	I	A	D	
M	T	A	E	A	V	A	N	T	A	L	S	S	I	
E	E	R	S	I	L	I	V	R	Y	A	S	T	D	N
X	M	R	T	S	S	L	R	Y	P	V	E	L	N	I
P	I	E	A	N	E	L	O	P	A	I	U	A	A	
A	T	S	R	U	T	A	W	A	P	N	M	A	S	I
N	I	O	N	I	T	E	M	L	B	T	R	S	U	N
D	R	N	D	I	R	S	R	O	L	I	A	S	O	A
A	E	G	N	I	S	S	O	R	C	N	A	H	P	
N	M	N	O	I	G	E	S	E	L	E	P	H	A	N
G	N	I	D	N	E	C	S	A	F	R	I	C	A	I
E	G	A	T	S	O	H	I	E	R	O	N	N	A	H

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12/27

Africa, Agrigutum, Alps, Amies, Ascending, Assaults, Burn, Carthaginians, Crossing, Elephants, Empire, Expanding, Fleet, Garrison, Hannibal, Harro, Hero, Hispania, Hostage, Italy, Legion, Maritime, Mediterranean, Naval, Navy, Po River, Power, Romans, Sallors, Sarcina, Sicily, Siege, State, Thousands, Trade, Tunis, Wall, Western

Last Saturday's Answer: Snowing

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## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! \$99 per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.



# CLASSIFIED ADS



## WHATZIT Solution: Sleepwalk

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

## CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

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• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$27</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$39</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$42</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$57</b>

## ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

## CANCELLATION

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.  
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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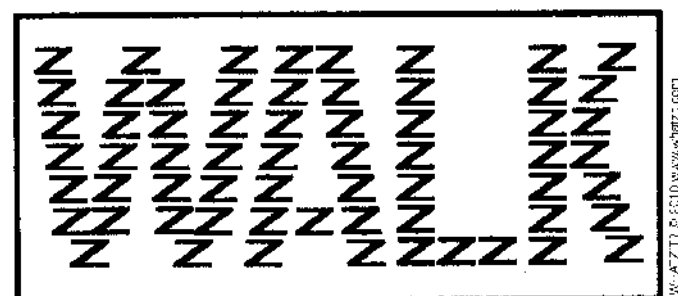
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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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## Find today's solution in this section





# LeBron has triple-double, Heat rout Lakers

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—LeBron James and Kobe Bryant ran their mouths while they jogged downcourt, not quite making eye contact during an unpleasant conversation in the closing minutes.

"Just asked him what he got for Christmas," James said.

Although the two superstars wouldn't reveal what angry words they exchanged, it wasn't tough to pick out a few statements Saturday. While Kobe and the Los Angeles Lakers got a disturbing first look at the Miami Heat, LeBron got the last word at Staples Center yet again.

James had 27 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists while hitting a season-high five 3-pointers, and the Heat thrived on the holiday stage in a 96-80 victory.

Although both teams called the game a television curiosity rather than a potential NBA finals preview, it clearly meant something to James, who had his third triple-double with Miami and the 31st of his career. James also outplayed Bryant, who scored 17 points, in his second straight Christmas win in the Lakers' home arena, following last season's victory for LeBron's Cavaliers.

"We're not trying to make a statement to anyone," James said. "We're trying to show each other that we can play at a high level and try to get better every game. This is one game. ... We're happy because we got better today."

While the Heat realize Boston and Orlando are much more important obstacles to their championship hopes, and while the Lakers don't get terribly excited about playing anybody until the playoffs, there was a palpable edge in the crowd at Staples Center for this intersectional matchup - until the Heat's steady defensive effort flattened the Lakers in the second half.

Chris Bosh had 24 points and 13 rebounds, Dwyane Wade added 18 points on a sore knee and the Heat won for the 14th time in 15 games while flustering the two-time defending champions into a terrible offensive performance, starting with Los Angeles' 14-point first quarter.

"Our whole thing is just playing solid defense the whole game," Bosh said. "That's the primary part of our identity. Our backbone right now is defense."

James played a balanced, patient game, even after a technical foul near halftime for an under-the-basket scuffle with Lakers defensive stopper Ron Artest. James' teammates contributed enough to keep the Heat comfortably ahead, with Bosh playing an outstanding first half and Mario Chalmers contributing 13 points in a reserve role, including three 3-pointers.

"Offensively, it's probably the most trust and the most poise we've played (with) this season," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Pau Gasol scored 17 points for the Lakers, who fell behind early and never caught up to the tantalizing new contenders for their title. Although Bryant wore garish green shoes for the holiday, his Lakers simply didn't raise their games to meet the spotlight that follows Miami, falling well behind in the first half and never making a run.

Bryant, who picked up his third technical foul in two games, was visibly displeased with his teammates



Miami Heat forward LeBron James, left, and Los Angeles Lakers power forward Pau Gasol of Spain reach for a rebound during the first half of their NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010, in Los Angeles. The Heat won, 96-80.

throughout the second half.

"It's like these games mean more to our opponents than they do to us," Bryant said. "I think we need to get that straight - play with more focus, put more (emphasis) on these games. I don't like it. ... We know what we're capable of doing, and that's part of the problem."

Lamar Odom had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who have lost two straight at home after winning five in a row on the road, following up Tuesday's collapse against Milwaukee with this high-profile flop. While Odom thinks the Lakers are overconfident, Bryant believes the problems start in practice.

"Individually, you have to make that decision on what's important," Bryant said. "The game has to be the most important thing. ... This is serious stuff. You don't just have two rings and say, 'That's enough. We're satisfied with what we've got.' I'm not going to let that slide."

Coach Phil Jackson dislikes the Lakers' annual spot on the NBA's Christmas schedule, and perhaps for reasons beyond the season: Los Angeles dropped to 4-8 on Christmas since 1999, including last season's one-sided loss to Cleveland, which ended with dozens of giveaway foam hands getting thrown on the court.

Players on both teams broke out festive holiday sneakers for the occasion, including lime-green Nike kicks on Bryant, Gasol and Odom. James and Bosh wore holiday-red shoes with garish green laces.

James got his T shortly afterward for shoving Artest under the basket with 10 seconds left in the first half after Artest wrapped nearly his entire arm around James' neck while battling for rebounding position.

"I was in a WWE headlock, and I was trying to get out of it," James said.

## Magic 86, Celtics 78

In Orlando, the remolded Magic are the NBA's new streak-busters.

Brandon Bass scored 21 points, Hedo Turkoglu had 15 and the Orlando Magic ended the Boston Celtics' winning streak at 14 games with an 86-78 victory Saturday for back-to-back wins against the NBA's best.

A Magic team that had dropped eight of nine games and orchestrated two blockbuster trades suddenly looks awfully scary in the Eastern Conference after a pair of victories over Boston and San Antonio.

"You see what the possibilities are," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "You see that you have a chance to be a really good team. We're not there yet by any means, but you have a chance to be a very good team. And I think that right there, that belief and that confidence that if we will stay with it, we can be very good."

"That's a great thing for our team to get that belief that, yeah, this can work. We can do this."

Jameer Nelson (12 points) and J.J. Redick (10 points) each made a jumper in the final minutes to help Orlando rally from 12 points down in the second half to cap another big come back. The Magic also ended San Antonio's winning streak at 10 games Thursday night.

Kevin Garnett had 22 points, and Paul Pierce added 18, but injuries finally caught up with the Celtics against the team they beat last season in the East finals. Boston hadn't lost since Nov. 21 at Toronto.

"I just thought we went away from executing offensively and we just didn't get any stops down the stretch," Pierce said.

The Celtics had Magic All-Star center Dwight Howard in foul trouble for the first three quarters. He didn't even score his first field goal until a

minute into the fourth quarter, a hook shot over Glen Davis to trim Boston's lead to four.

## Knicks 103, Bulls 95

In New York, Amare Stoudemire and Raymond Felton each scored 20 points, and the New York Knicks limited the Chicago Bulls to two baskets in the first 10 minutes of the fourth quarter, pulling away for a 103-95 victory Saturday.

Wilson Chandler and Danilo Gallinari added 15 apiece for the Knicks, the NBA's highest-scoring team but 28th in defense. Yet they didn't allow a field goal for more than 8 minutes after the game was tied in the opening minutes of the final period.

Stoudemire anchored the defensive effort, grabbing 10 rebounds and blocking six shots. Rookie Landry Fields finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks, who improved to 21-25 on Christmas. Felton had 12 assists and Chandler also grabbed 10 boards.

Wearing green uniforms for Christmas, the Knicks looked like a completely different team in beating Chicago for the second time this season, winning the series for the first time since 2000-01.

Carlos Boozer had 26 points and 19 rebounds for the Bulls, who lost for just the second time in 11 games.

The Bulls flopped in their first Christmas game since 1997, committing 22 turnovers that led to 23 points. They fell to 9-6 on the holiday, including 2-3 against the Knicks.

## Thunder 114, Nuggets 106

In Oklahoma, with one quarter to go, the first 50-point game of Kevin Durant's career seemed within his grasp. That he chose not to force the issue meant he didn't reach that personal goal - but that decision did help the Oklahoma City Thunder win.

Durant, the NBA's scoring leader,

had a season-high 44 points, including 21 in the third quarter, and the Thunder beat the Denver Nuggets 114-106 on Saturday night in the first Christmas Day game in the Thunder's three-season tenure in Oklahoma City.

Durant raised his average to 28.1 points and topped his previous season high of 34, blow past the latter by the five-minute mark of the third quarter en route to his first 40-point game of the season - after having eight of them last season. He finished 14 of 20 from the field, including 4 of 7 from 3-point range.

"He was on fire," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said. "He wasn't even hitting the rim."

With 40 points after three quarters, Durant admitted he was thinking not just of breaking his career high of 47 set Feb. 17, 2009, against New Orleans, but of reaching the 50-point mark.

The Nuggets made sure that didn't happen, routinely throwing two and three defenders at Durant during the fourth quarter. He didn't score in the quarter until the final 2 minutes, but with the Nuggets focused on him, his teammates found open shots and lanes to the basket and Durant helped make sure the ball found its way to them.

"I just didn't want to force anything or mess up the flow of the game," Durant said.

Oklahoma City extended a narrow lead to 10 at 96-86 with 8:45 left and the Nuggets came no closer than three the rest of the way. Consecutive 3-pointers by Durant and James Harden 30 seconds apart, the last with 1:11 left, sealed the win for the Thunder, 9-1 after a loss this season.

"Kevin was a special player tonight," Brooks said.

## Warriors 109, Blazers 102

In Oakland, Monta Ellis scored 39 points and the Golden State Warriors scored 11 straight points to erase a six-point deficit in the fourth quarter and beat the Portland Trail Blazers 109-102 on Saturday night in their first Christmas home game.

David Lee added 21 points, and Dorell Wright scored five of his 16 during the decisive spurt to help the Warriors win back-to-back games for the first time since Nov. 8-10.

They didn't have to dig out of as deep a hole as they did Tuesday night, when they rallied from 16 points down in the fourth quarter to beat the Sacramento Kings in overtime. But they still needed clutch plays late to snap Portland's three-game winning streak.

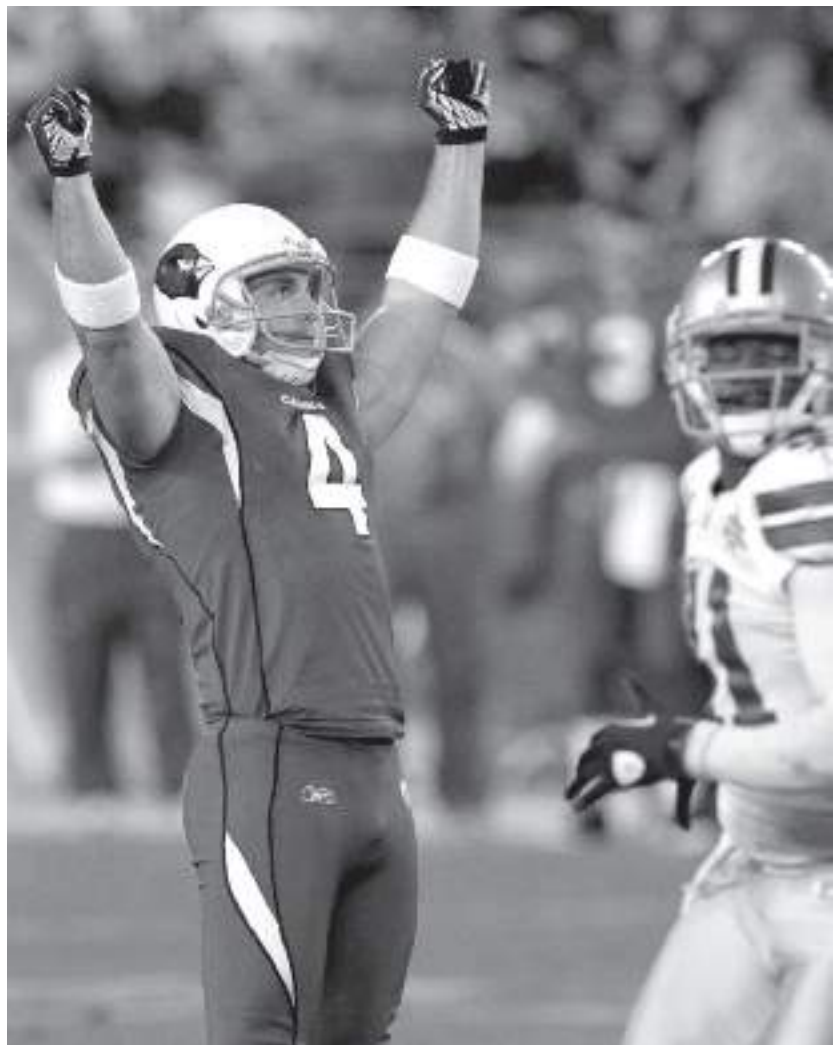
LaMarcus Aldridge gave the Blazers a 97-91 lead with just over 5 minutes left and it looked as if Portland was in position to win for the second straight time in Oakland following nine losses in a row here.

But Wesley Matthews fouled Ellis on a 3-pointer to start Golden State's run. Ellis made all three free throws, and Wright hit a tying 3-pointer on the Warriors' next possession. Wright then stole a pass from Rudy Fernandez and went the other way for a dunk that gave the Warriors their first lead of the quarter.

Reggie Williams capped the run with another 3-pointer that made it 102-97. Ellis put the game away with a long jumper, followed by a steal and layup that gave the Warriors a 106-99 lead with 1:04 to play.



# Feely's FG lifts Arizona past Dallas



Arizona Cardinals' Jay Feely (4) celebrates a game-winning field goal as Dallas Cowboys' Terence Newman, right, closes his eyes late in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010, in Glendale, Ariz. The Cardinals defeated the Cowboys, 27-26.



**GLENDAL, Ariz.** (AP)—Third-string quarterbacks when the season began, John Skelton and Stephen McGee had lead parts in a Christmas night drama staged by a pair of NFL teams headed nowhere. Jay Feely's 48-yard field goal inched over the crossbar with 5 seconds to play, giving the Arizona Cardinals a 27-26 victory over the Dallas Cowboys.

"Really, nothing's bigger than beating the Dallas Cowboys on Christmas Day right now," Cardinals rookie QB Skelton said. "Whiz (coach Ken Whisenhunt) was shaking my hand before the game and I said, 'We have one last gift to unwrap.' Sure enough, it took the last minute, but we got it."

Dallas (5-10) rallied from 18 points down to take a 26-24 lead when Stephen McGee, in his first NFL game, threw 45 yards to Miles Austin for a touchdown with 1:46 to play. But David Buehler's extra point went wide left.

"I'm not feeling too good," Buehler said. "I feel bad for Stephen. He drove the team down there and got the touchdown. PATs are something that is something automatic. You have to put them through the uprights. I think I just rushed it a little bit."

Arizona (5-10) was in deep trouble after the kickoff, but Skelton, on fourth-and-15 from the Cardinals 19, threw 26 yards to Larry Fitzgerald, his only catch of the game. Then Skelton threw 19 yards to fellow rookie Max Komar.

An illegal formation penalty moved the ball back 5 yards but still well within Feely's range. Feely, who had a 49-yarder earlier, has missed three kicks all season, including a 49-yard attempt Saturday night.

Many Cowboys thought they had won it when the penalty was called be-

cause they expected a 10-second runoff. But referee Jeff Triplette said that the runoff does not apply to an illegal formation call.

Dallas fell behind 14-0 when Kitna had interceptions returned for touchdowns on the Cowboys' first two possessions. Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie returned the first 32 yards, and Greg Toler the second 66.

Under clear skies with the stadium roof open and at least half the capacity crowd cheering for Dallas, the Cardinals took a 21-3 lead. Skelton, in his third NFL start, connected with wide-open rookie Andre Roberts on a 74-yard play for the young quarterback's first NFL touchdown pass.

Kitna, the starter since Tony Romo went down with a broken collarbone, got Dallas in the end zone before half-time. The 38-year-old quarterback scrambled 7 yards up the middle to the Arizona 2-yard line, and on fourth down threw to Jason Witten for the score. He left the field and immediately went to the locker room with a hip injury and didn't play again, watching from the sideline wearing a baseball cap.

McGee, a fourth-round draft pick out of Texas A&M in 2009, smoothly stepped in, repeatedly connecting on third-down passes. He finished 11 of 17 for 111 yards with no interceptions.

The Cowboys dominated the third quarter, holding Arizona to 23 yards and no first downs, outscoring the Cardinals 10-0 to cut the lead to 21-20.

Feely's 49-yarder boosted the lead to 24-20, forcing the Cowboys to go for a touchdown.

They got it on a perfect pass by McGee onto Austin's fingertips. The best Arizona could hope for was overtime, everyone thought. Then Buehler missed a conversion kick for the second time in 40 tries.

## Playoff spots up for grabs

**NEW YORK (AP)**—There it is, within grasp, for a half-dozen teams: that coveted playoff berth.

The chore is simple for five of them. If the Saints, Eagles, Giants, Jets or Ravens win, they are in. Doesn't matter what anybody else does; no help required.

Kansas City needs a victory and a loss by San Diego to capture the AFC West. The Chiefs host Tennessee, while the Chargers are at Cincinnati, and many expect that race to come down to the season finales.

"What you work and play all year for is to play after the regular season," says Chiefs linebacker Derrick Johnson. "And that's what we plan to do."

San Diego has made its usual charge in the second half of the schedule, winning six of seven. Star quarterback Philip Rivers figures it will take eight of nine to stay alive.

"We know we need to win the next two to even have a chance, and we still need some help," says the NFL's highest-ranked passer in December. "We've always wanted to finish strong, and we've been able to do that. But it's certainly going to be a challenge these last two weeks."

Well, maybe not that big a challenge: The Chargers' other game is at woeful Denver. Kansas City hosts its biggest rival, Oakland, next weekend.

New England, Pittsburgh and Atlanta already own postseason spots. The Saints get one if they win at Atlanta, which also would keep the defending Super Bowl champions in position to take the AFC South that the Falcons currently lead by two games.

The winner of that division figures to get a first-round bye.

"It's a huge advantage to have that bye and have that home game, but there's been teams that haven't had that luxury and moved on to do special things," says Saints linebacker Scott Shanle. "I won't deny that (playing on the road) does make your job harder. But it's not impossible."

The Eagles win the NFC East by beating Minnesota in the Sunday night game.

Also Sunday, the Giants are at Green Bay and the Jets visit Chicago. With wins at their NFC North opponents, both New York teams can secure wild cards.

Baltimore travels to Cleveland with a chance to secure a postseason berth; New England is at Buffalo with a shot at grabbing the AFC East crown and a first-round bye; Indianapolis tries to hold onto the top spot in the AFC South when it visits Oakland while division runner-up Jacksonville hosts Washington; San Francisco is at St. Louis and Seattle visits

### Tennessee (6-8) at Kansas City (9-5)

Matt Cassel showed tremendous grit last Sunday by returning from an appendectomy to guide Kansas City past Missouri rival St. Louis. But it's the staunch running of Jamaal Charles and Thomas Jones that makes the offense go, and the defense under coordinator

Romeo Crennel is among the most improved in the league.

The Titans aren't eliminated from the AFC South race, but they need to get their house in order for next season and they broke a six-game slide by beating the Texans last weekend.

### San Diego (8-6) at Cincinnati (3-11)

You sort of expect the Chargers to be a factor in the division and behind the superb work of Rivers, despite a slew of injuries around him, they are. A stumble in their longest trip east all season doesn't seem likely, and they don't have to worry about covering Terrell Owens: T.O. is MIA, on injured reserve after need surgery.

### New Orleans (10-4) at Atlanta (12-2), Monday night

Ah, the marquee matchup of the weekend. Atlanta won on an overtime field goal at New Orleans in Week 3, a victory that provided tremendous impetus toward the league's best record. The Falcons can shut up any remaining doubters that they are a championship quality outfit by handing the Saints a second consecutive defeat, which also gives Atlanta home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs.

### Minnesota (5-9) at Philadelphia (10-4)

Don't expect a 7-minute, 28-point explosion from the Eagles again. Then again, why not with the way Michael Vick, DeSean Jackson, Brent Celek, Jeremy Maclin and LeSean McCoy are performing behind an inconsistent line that they make look better than it actually is.

NBC wanted this game for prime time, perhaps hoping for a Vick vs. Brett Favre matchup. At least the network gets the most entertaining and dynamic offense in football—and it can recount, once again, all the tribulations in Minnesota, even if Favre isn't on the field.

### N.Y. Giants (9-5) at Green Bay (8-6)

One day after that stunning collapse against Philly, Giants QB Eli Manning got vocal with his teammates. Is that a sign of leadership or are the Giants on the verge of panic?

Manning had one of the best games of his career in the 2007 NFC title game at frigid Lambeau Field, and he's pretty good at bouncing back from disappointment. Plus, a win and the Giants are in at least as a wild card, not a bad scenario if they then can emulate '07's run to the championship.

Green Bay is hopeful of getting back its star quarterback, Aaron Rodgers, from a concussion. The Pack must win its last two games to get into the postseason as a wild card.

### N.Y. Jets (10-4) at Chicago (10-4)

No coach deserves more credit for his team's success this year than Lovie Smith. The Bears were projected as a .500 or below squad when the season began, yet if they win this one and the

Eagles and Giants both lose, Chicago adds a bye to its NFC North crown.

Both teams excel on kick returns, Chicago with record-setting Devin Hester, New York with versatile Brad Smith. But this game figures to come down to which defense dominates, or which quarterback—the Jets' Mark Sanchez or the Bears' Jay Cutler—makes fewer mistakes.

### Baltimore (10-4) at Cleveland (5-9)

Coming off a sturdy win against the Saints, Baltimore is in the same position as the New York teams: win and get a wild card. Baltimore also can win the AFC North—the Steelers hold the tie-breaker—and can make the postseason with a combination of losses by other teams Sunday.

### New England (12-2) at Buffalo (4-10)

It only seems like the last time the Bills won in this series was in the old AFL.

The Patriots have won 14 straight and 19 of the past 20 meetings, outscoring Buffalo by a combined 209-39 in the second matchup of each season over the past seven years. QB Tom Brady is 16-1 against the Bills, having gone 339 of 514 for 3,965 yards with 36 TDs and 12 interceptions.

### Indianapolis (8-6) at Oakland (7-7) Washington (5-9) at Jacksonville (8-6)

The Jaguars kicked away a chance to win the AFC South when they fell at Indy last Sunday. Now, they must take care of their last two weak opponents (Houston is next up) and hope the Colts trip up, or the Ravens and Jets both drop their final two games.

### San Francisco (5-9) at St. Louis (6-8) Seattle (6-8) at Tampa Bay (8-6)

Consider this, and if you're a true football fan, it's not something you want to think about: losses by the Rams and Seahawks will guarantee a losing record will win the NFC West because those teams meet next week. It also would keep the 49ers in the chase.

Oh, for relegation in the NFL.

Tampa Bay is slumping, done in somewhat by its inexperience, and the loss to the Lions last weekend pretty much shattered postseason hopes for the Bucs. Yet they could finish 10-6 and see a 7-9 club emerge from the West.

### Detroit (4-10) at Miami (7-7) Houston (5-9) at Denver (3-11) Dallas (5-9) at Arizona (4-10)

Shield your eyes for this trio of games, the exact type of matchups the NFL hopes to avoid in late December. And to the league's dismay, one of them is in prime time: the Christmas night, uh, showcase between the disappointing Cowboys and the wretched Cardinals.

Dallas placed Tony Romo on injured reserve this week, and it still probably has the two best quarterbacks on either roster in Jon Kitna and Stephen McGee. You could argue the Cardinals are as big a flop as anybody in the NFC—unless it's the Cowboys.



# Saipan Marathon to draw more runners next year

The picturesque and widely popular Saipan Marathon will return for its sixth running on March 5 next year.

Featuring a full marathon (26.2 mi./42.195km), a half marathon (13.1 mi./21.1km) and a 10K (6.2 miles), the Saipan Marathon attracted nearly 600 participants this year from Japan, Korea, Guam, and the Northern Marianas and is expected to draw hundreds more in 2011.

"The Saipan Marathon is quickly becoming the signature event for the Northern Marianas, one of the top annual visitors drawers throughout the year," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Our goal is to put on another great event in 2011, and to continue to work with the community to grow the Saipan Marathon into one of the premiere marathons of the region."



A World War II tank and bunker along the Beach Road pathway are just two of multiple historic sites along the race course of the Saipan Marathon, to be held on March 5, 2011.

Set on the tropical island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, the course runs adjacent to the lagoon, along quiet roads in the lush northern part of the island, and through the

island's major tourism district. The course is comparable to the Honolulu Marathon, offering runners a course of almost completely ocean views.

The event, sponsored by

the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), will award first through sixth place finishes for both males and females in all three races. Awards will also be given in eight age divisions

for the top male and female in the 14 & under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 & up categories.

Entrance fee for the full marathon is \$100 International/US/Guam and \$55 CNMI. Entrance fees for the half marathon and 10K is \$70 International/US/Guam and \$45 CNMI. Contestants who sign up before 5 p.m. on Feb. 10, 2011 avoid a late fee of \$10. The final day for all registrations will be Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. A valid CNMI Driver's License or ID is required to establish proof of residency. Registration forms may be submitted to the MVA office.

Orientation and race packet pickup are mandatory and will be held on March 4, 2010, at the American Memorial Park. Japanese orientation will be at 4 p.m. and English orientation

at 4:30 p.m.

Start time on race day will be 4:30 a.m. for the marathon, 5:45 a.m. for the half-marathon, and 6 a.m. for the 10K. The course will commence and end at the AMP.

Entrance fee includes a carbo-loading spaghetti dinner on March 4, free entrance to the awards dinner, finisher's T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

For more information about the Saipan Marathon, visit the MVA website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), or contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at 1.670.664.3200/01 or [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com). Japan participants should register via Run Net at <http://runnet.jp/>.

The Saipan Marathon is sponsored by the MVA and its members, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Northern Marianas Athletics, and DFS Saipan. (MVA)

## PACQUIAO

From Page 28

Roach has also said in several interviews that Mosley will be a tough opponent and hopes to train the Filipino ring icon for a longer period this time around.

But he added he will start "some light training" already after his long vacation.

Pacquiao was interviewed on Thursday in General Santos before his whole family flew to Boracay, where they spent Christmas.

They will stay in Boracay for a week. Afterward, the whole family will fly to Japan for a week-long vacation, then to Australia for another week-long trip.

The whole family left the city around 11 a.m. Thursday aboard

a private plane for their extended foreign trips.

"We need to take a longer vacation to make the kids happy. Their father had been busy for the past months, but it's worth it because now we get to spend a long time with him," Jinkee, Pacquiao's wife, said.

Against Mosley, Roach wants Pacquiao to train for six full weeks at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles in anticipation of a great and hard fight.

"People who say this is the easiest fight are crazy. It's definitely not the easiest fight," Roach admitted, adding that Pacquiao needs to stay focused and train hard because Mosley is a threat.

"Manny has speed but so has Mosley. He'll give us a little trouble because he is also experienced. He is a different

type of fighter compared to Margarito. He is a much better boxer. Manny loves guys who come to him but Mosley will box him and come to him much more intelligently."

Roach, who was among the special guests of Pacquiao when he celebrated his 32nd birthday in GenSan, noted that Mosley even had Floyd Mayweather Jr. "out for a moment" in their fight several months ago but "kind of let that slip out."

He also pointed to the impressive pay-per-view numbers when Mosley fought Mayweather, adding that Mosley "did beat our last opponent (Antonio Margarito) also."

"It's not an easy fight by any means but whoever Bob puts in front of me I'll get Manny ready for him," Roach said.

Sources said the only issue

holding up an announcement regarding the Mosley fight set in May is the fact that Pacquiao apparently wants a bigger guaranteed purse than what Top Rank promoter Bob Arum has offered him so far.

This tactic is nothing new, however, and many expect Arum and Pacquiao to eventually come to terms as in the past.

Arum, who also attended Pacquiao's birthday bash with wife Lovee, is expected to negotiate terms with Mosley on his return to Las Vegas.

The proposed Pacquiao trilogy with Juan Manuel Marquez is out for good according to Arum, because Marquez was asking more than double what he got for the Mayweather fight which he lost early last year.

"That just shows he really doesn't want the fight."

coincide with the Guam National Team Qualifier Tournament.

The competition in Guam will be the CNMI junior netters' last for 2010. Early this month, Rastguay, Johnson, and Lopez participated in the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic and played against their fellow CNMI players and Guam netters. Ackerman was originally entered in the girls U12 singles and doubles, but pulled out due to an injury.

Beaumont, California early this month.

With his success this season, Macaranas received three awards during the year-end party and awards ceremony for the Long Beach Junior Golf Association at the Heartwell Golf Course clubhouse in Long Beach, California, also early this month.

He topped the club's chip-ins category with 11, placed second in the birdies with 44, and was part of the Sweet 16 of the 2010 LBJGA Match-Play Championship.

Lopez will duel Nadine Del Carmen. Ackerman is paired against Emmanuelle Haurillon.

Ackerman will also play in the girls U12 singles against Del Carmen.

Johnson and Lopez also have another singles event, as they are both entered in the girls U16 division. Lopez will meet Ashley Nadler in the semis, while the other semis pairing will have Johnson bat-

its five world events this year. These events are the San Diego Junior Amateur, Western States Junior Players Cup, Texas Championship, Las Vegas Championship, San Diego Junior Masters, and the World Championship. I guess they already added one more so six events for points," Macaranas said.

In the past three years, Macaranas joined each event and paid only \$135 per event. Now, since he is moving to the higher age group, the cost to participate almost doubled at \$240 per event. "So multiply that by 6 or 5 if

I skip Texas is \$1200 to \$1400 just on tournament fees. I really don't know what to do yet, but I've never missed the San Diego Junior Amateur. It was always my first event of the year, and a warm up to the World Championship, but like I mentioned earlier, the event was moved to July to the Palm Dessert area," Macaranas said.

The young golfer is coming off a successful fall season where he won a PGA event—the 2010 Bridgestone Fall Series Championship at the East Valley Champions Course in

## UBA

From Page 28

Prospects is assured of a game in the opening day with its foe to be determined via draw.

Prospects won the inaugural UBA men's league after sweeping Ol'Aces in a short best-of-three series.

The then Bonbon Cadagat-led Prospects edged the

Ol'Aces in the low-scoring Game 1, 75-68, and completed the sweep with a another close victory in Game 2, 77-74.

Meanwhile, participating teams are asked to complete the league's requirements before the competition kicks off next month. For more information, contact UBA at 989-UBA1(8221) or email at [unifiedbasketballassociation@gmail.com](mailto:unifiedbasketballassociation@gmail.com).



## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	5	.821	—
New York	18	12	.600	6
Philadelphia	11	18	.379	12 1/2
Toronto	10	19	.345	13 1/2
New Jersey	9	21	.300	15

##### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	23	9	.719	—
Atlanta	19	12	.613	3 1/2
Orlando	18	12	.600	4
Charlotte	9	19	.321	12
Washington	7	20	.259	13 1/2

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	18	10	.643	—
Indiana	13	14	.481	4 1/2
Milwaukee	12	16	.429	6
Detroit	10	19	.345	8 1/2
Cleveland	8	21	.276	10 1/2

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	25	4	.862	—
Dallas	23	5	.821	1 1/2
New Orleans	17	12	.586	8
Houston	14	15	.483	11
Memphis	12	17	.414	13

##### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	21	9	.700	—
Oklahoma City	21	10	.677	1/2
Denver	16	12	.571	4
Portland	15	15	.500	6
Minnesota	6	24	.200	15

##### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	21	9	.700	—
Phoenix	13	15	.464	7
Golden State	11	18	.379	9 1/2
L.A. Clippers	8	22	.267	13
Sacramento	5	22	.185	14 1/2

#### Yesterday's Games

New York 103, Chicago 95  
Orlando 86, Boston 78  
Miami 96, L.A. Lakers 80  
Oklahoma City 114, Denver 106  
Golden State 109, Portland 102

### NFL STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

##### East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	12	2	0	.857	446	303

N.Y. Jets	10	4	0	.714	295	259
Miami	7	7	0	.500	239	261
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286	273	353

##### South

Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	381	342
Jacksonville	8	6	0	.571	319	365
Tennessee	6	8	0	.429	322	282
Houston	5	9	0	.357	333	386

##### North

x-Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733	334	223
Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	324	253
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	252	271
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214	281	362

##### West

Kansas City	9	5	0	.643	322	281
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	388	260
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	353	330
Denver	3	11	0	.214	292	415

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

##### East

Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	412	339
N.Y. Giants	9	5	0	.643	360	288
Washington	5	9	0	.357	268	343
Dallas	5	10	0	.333	380	423

##### South

x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	369	261
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	354	270
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571	280	290
Carolina	2	13	0	.133	186	377

##### North

y-Chicago	10	4	0	.714	293	242
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	333	220
Minnesota	5	9	0	.357	244	314
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	308	329

##### West

St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	258	295
Seattle	6	8	0	.429	279	363
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	250	314
Arizona	5	10	0	.333	282	396

x-clinched playoff spot  
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Game  
Arizona 27, Dallas 26

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## 4 CNMI

From Page 28

day at 11:45am.

Johnson, Ackerman, and Lopez are also competing in the girls U14 age group and will be up against Guam bets in the first round.

Johnson has the tougher first-round draw in girls U14 top-ranked Camdyn Nadler, while

## MACARANAS

From Page 28

was on Feb 13 and 14), but now it's on the week or so after the Junior World in July, and at the PGA Stadium course in La Quinta. I have mixed feelings about it," the 11-year-old golfer said.

Then there is the high cost for the Future Champions, which has five events across the United States and the World Series.

"The Future Champions is also starting a World Series for



# Weekend Sports

## Early Christmas gifts for teams

**T**eams received early Christmas gifts, as they won in separate competitions last week.

MP United had a championship trophy as a present after topping the 2010 NMIFA Men's FA Cup.

The Nick Swaim-led MP United was awarded the championship plum, following a shutout win, 3-0, over Inter Godfather in the one-game finals at the Oleai Sport Complex Field.

MP United's victory in the men's league capped the club's impressive run in the fall, as its squads also ruled the boys U14 and U18 competitions of the season.

Also recording an impressive win in a season-ending event was Mami's Boys, who reigned in the 2010 Northern Marianas Athletics Christmas Island Relay.

Mamiko Oshima-Berger and teammates Joshua Berger, Vinnie Inos, Stuart Smith, and Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel finished the 13.7-mile race from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi in one hour, 29

minutes, 10 seconds, to beat Cheetohs by 10 seconds.

Mami's Boys' winning time was faster than the 1:34:50 recorded by 2009 winner Flow. Mami's Boys received gifts from NMA for topping the annual race and besting 16 other teams.

Majority of the participants in the relay race also did not go home empty handed, as NMA raffled off prizes during the awards ceremony in apprecia-

tion of its supporters.

Also showing its thanks to its patrons was Trench Tech Promotions, which held the Fan Appreciation Night Fight at its gym in San Antonio.

Seventeen bouts were featured in the Appreciation Night, including the collision of Trench Tech's "Bad" Brad Palacios and Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Piligro" Rangamar. Rangamar won the main event via tap out at 1:50 into the second round.

Other worthy events last week was Negahr Rastguiry's twin wins in New Zealand, the Saipan Bowling Association's final monthly roll-off, and Jun Yi Piao's win in the Refaluwasch Golf Association tournament.

Rastguiry took the singles crown in the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open in Gisborne after beating Pacific Oceania teammate Ayana Rengiil of Palau, 6-3, 6-3. In the doubles

finals, Rastguiry teamed up with Guam's Nadine Del Carmen and together they downed Rengiil and New Zealand's Ariana Albert, 6-1, 6-3.

SBA had its December roll-offs last week with M.J. Aldan ruling the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes tournament and Gigi Zapanta prevailing in the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes tournament.

In the 2010 Annual Refaluwasch Golf Association Ace of Aces Placido M. Tagabuel Club Championship, junior golfer Piao won after shooting a two-day total of 140.

He won by two strokes against runner-up Manny Mangarero (142).



Participants in the 2010 Christmas Island Relay pose for a group photo at the finish line of the 13.7-mile race at the Last Command Post.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Members of MP United pose for a group photo with NMIFA FA Cup officials after their championship game against Inter Godfather's at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Negahr Rastguiry won two events in the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open in Gisborne, New Zealand.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

December roll-off winner Gigi Zapanta, is flanked by runners-up Yho Villavicencio, right, and Ron Cal.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mami's Boys members, Vinnis Inos, Jack Kabiriel, Joshua Berge, Stuart Smith, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger pose for a group photo after winning the Christmas Island Relay. Joining them is Kabiriel's son, Kevin.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

From left, Private First Classmen Christian Yamada and Elton Escaros appeared as special guest referees in last week's Trench Tech Fan Appreciation Night event at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio. Pictured with them are Staff Sergeant Ray Terlaje, center, Private First Classman Cheska Salen and Corporal Jonathan Mafnas. The two referees are recent boot camp graduates from the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot in San Diego, California.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

December Prince of the Lane M.J. Aldan is flanked by runners-up Marion McKenzie, right, and Lianne Yarobwemal.





LeBron has triple-double,  
Heat rout Lakers

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Early Christmas gifts for teams



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28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 4 CNMI jr. netters compete in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**F**our CNMI junior tennis players are now in Guam to participate in the 2010 Guam Junior Open Championships at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagatna.



Leading the lean CNMI delegation is Negahr Rastgui, who is coming off a successful campaign in New Zealand. Joining her are Mikayla Lopez, Tammy Ackerman, and Melody Johnson.

Rastgui will be competing in the girls U14 singles division and in Guam she is hoping to duplicate her feat in New Zealand. The diminutive junior player topped the girls U12 singles and doubles events of the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open in Gisborne mid this month. She also played in the 2010 Waikato Junior Open at the Waikato Tennis Centre in Hamilton and advanced to the finals of both the girls U12 doubles and singles divisions.

In Guam, Rastgui is entered in the much older age group and will face second seed Summer Morrison in her first match to-

See 4 CNMI on Page 26



Mikayla Lopez, seen here in local tournament mid this year, is in Guam with three other CNMI junior players to compete in the 2010 Guam Junior Open Championships at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagatna.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Macaranas to face tough challenges in 2011

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CNMI's pride R.J. Macaranas will be starting a new chapter in his young golf career next year.

"I will be turning 12 by the end of February next year. There will be a lot of changes in 2011. First, I will not be limited to playing nine holes of golf per day like in most cases this year because of my age group," Macaranas said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*. Macaranas will be mov-

ing to the higher age group next season and it means he will play in complete 18 holes and this will require more trips to the greens for practices and training.

Besides the longer plays, another tough challenge for the CNMI junior golfer is the schedule of 2011 events.

"The biggest one I noticed is the Callaway Future Champions World Championship. It is no longer on President's Day weekend [this year]

See MACARANAS on Page 26



R.J. Macaranas, second right, poses with family members after a tournament early this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dan Barcinas, seen here going for a jumper against Noni Saipan's Wowie Abuel, will no longer play for the Ol'Aces and instead will suit up for NMC Proa when the UBA caging kicks off next month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## UBA caging lures 9 teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

It's final. Nine teams will vie for the championship in the 2nd Unified Basketball Association Men's League.

UBA president James Lee said two more squads joined the league, making next year's competition for the coveted crown even fiercer.

The two additional teams are the Fundamentalists and Rollers. Kirk Schuler will lead the Fundamentalists and will be teaming up with some soccer players on the island, while Rollers are composed of the senior players under the Rollers Basketball Club and will be anchored by Luis Crisostimo.

The Fundamentalists and Rollers will join early participants Prospects, Ol'Aces, Mobil, IP&E Konflikt, Hoopahol-

ics, NMC Proa, and Satbahi.

"Each team will have its own strengths and weaknesses, so the competition is pretty balance. It will now boils down to which team will have the chemistry during game time and peak properly," Lee said.

"You will see teams getting players from other teams to bolster their rosters. Talents are all spread out among the

nine teams so it will be a pretty exciting league and competition will be tougher than last year," Lee added.

UBA is planning to open the league either on Jan. 17 or 19, depending on the availability of the venue. Games will be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There will be two matches every playdate.

Lee said defending champion

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## Pacquiao not taking fight against Mosley lightly

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines**—Pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao is not taking American boxer Shane Mosley lightly.

Pacquiao said Mosley has the speed and experience and he needs to train hard for their May 7 fight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In stressing how a good fighter Mosley is, Pacquiao said he was made to choose two different dates for the Mosley

tiff, April 16 or May 7.

"I chose May 7 so I have more than enough time to prepare," he said.

"This is not an easy fight.

I need at least eight weeks to train for the Mosley fight," Pacquiao said.

As to where the eight-week training will be conducted, Pacquiao said he has yet to speak to his coach, Freddie Roach after the holidays.

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